

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



GETTING STARTED

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective and least expensive ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. It fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds, as well as improves relations between officers and the community they serve.

**TO FORM A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP,
CALL (801) 799-3361 OR SEND AN EMAIL TO:
MICHELLE.MECHLING@SLCGOV.COM**

**THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR WILL START
YOU OFF WITH A SIMPLE CHECKLIST,
WHICH INCLUDES:**

- Selecting a Block Captain.
- Establishing a phone tree for effective communication.
- Recruiting members and making special efforts to include the elderly, working parents and young people.
- Identifying areas of concern specific to your neighborhood.

STAYING ACTIVE

It's an unfortunate fact that when a neighborhood crime crisis goes away, so does the enthusiasm for Neighborhood Watch. A few ways to keep any group active and interested include:

- Organize regular meetings that focus on other issues, such as recreational activities for children or emergency preparedness.
 - Consider a neighborhood beautification project or any activity important to your group.
 - Host a picnic, garden party or other social event to help keep your group active.
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ABC'S OF WATCH GROUPS

- ✓ Any community resident can join – young or old, single or married, renter or homeowner.
- ✓ A few concerned residents or a community organization can spearhead the effort to organize a Neighborhood Watch.
- ✓ Participants learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report suspicious activity to the Police Department.
- ✓ You can form a Neighborhood Watch group around any geographical unit: a block, an apartment complex or a business area.
- ✓ Watch groups are not vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. They help build pride and serve as a springboard for efforts to address community concerns, such as beautification and disaster preparedness.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

DET. MICHELLE MECHLING

(801) 799-3361

michelle.mechling@slcgov.com