

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM



Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Town Watch, Crime Watch — no matter what it's called, this is one of the most effective and free answers to crime. Watch groups are the foundation of community crime prevention and are often the stepping stones of community revitalization.

The Sterling Police Department believes in “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” and works with groups to facilitate Neighborhood Watch Programs. Neighborhood Watch brings residents and law enforcement together to improve safety and prevent crime. Safety improves when neighbors watch out for each other by reporting suspicious activity and in-progress crimes to 911. Crime prevention occurs when the opportunity for crime is removed and neighbors work together for a safer neighborhood.

3 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

ACTIVE MEMBER LIST:

Providing contact information to members allows everyone access to each other for neighborhood concerns.

- ◇ Collect contact information from participants.
- ◇ Prepare and distribute Active Member list to participants.

List should include: Names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail.

OPERATION IDENTIFICATION:

Operation ID is a burglary prevention program used in homes and businesses to record personal property and discourage burglary and theft.

- ◇ Take photographs and document personal property to include brand name and serial numbers.
- ◇ Keep information, along with purchase receipts, in a safe location.
- ◇ Display Operation ID sticker near exterior doors and windows.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS:

Quarterly meetings ensure ongoing neighborhood relationships!

- ◇ Community BBQ's
- ◇ Game nights
- ◇ Holiday festivals
- ◇ Ice cream socials

For Emergencies, call 911.

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“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

Easy and convenient program.

Free crime prevention for your family and neighborhood.

Sterling Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
815 632-6640
crimeprevention@sterling-il.gov
www.ci.sterling.il.us/main/departments/police

212 Third Ave.
Sterling, IL 61081

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM—GUIDELINES

The following information will help you establish a Neighborhood Watch Program in your neighborhood. The extent of problems and concerns within your community as well as the commitment level of neighborhood residents will determine the success of your group.



Neighborhood Watch's three components:

- ◇ Create and distribute a Member List.
- ◇ Complete Operation Identification (Operation ID).
- ◇ Hold quarterly meetings—Have fun!

PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION

Preliminary Neighborhood Watch Steps:

1. Meet informally with at least 5 neighbors concerned about crime in your neighborhood.
2. Discuss current problems, expected results and get a commitment to work together.
3. Select a Captain and Co-Captain who will coordinate your Neighborhood Watch group.
4. Captain needs to attend a quarterly Neighborhood Watch Introduction Summit.
5. Select a date and location for the first Neighborhood Watch meeting and inform your neighbors.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting (Agenda):

1. Have attendees introduce themselves.
2. Discuss neighborhood issues and concerns. Develop a "Team Attitude."
3. Explain Neighborhood Watch—How it works and the benefits. ([Neighborhood Watch Program Overview](#))
4. Complete [Member List](#) and [Neighborhood Street Map](#) of participating neighbors.
5. Set a reasonable completion date for [Operation ID](#). (Captain confirms individual completion.)
6. Set next quarterly meeting date and location.

Benefits To Neighborhood Watch Groups:

Community-police partnerships:

- ◇ Crime Prevention informational brochures available on the web.
- ◇ Neighborhood specific Crime Alerts for current crime trends distributed by email.
- ◇ Quarterly educational Neighborhood Watch Captain Summits.
- ◇ Upon request—Calls for service statistics available for quarterly Neighborhood Watch meetings.
- ◇ Operation ID stickers provided to Neighborhood Watch Captains for participants who complete the program requirements.
- ◇ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) security surveys provided by law enforcement for Neighborhood Watch members and the physical neighborhood.
- ◇ The city provides and installs Neighborhood Watch signs.

ORGANIZATION

Neighborhood Watch is a group of neighbors working together to make their community a safer place to live. This occurs when neighbors look out for the general welfare of others and property by calling 911 to alert police of suspicious activities or crimes. Groups need to establish clear objectives and strive for 100 percent participation within their geographical area. Neighborhood Watch truly is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Neighborhood Watch Captain and Co-Captain Responsibilities:

1. Serve as a liaison between your active Neighborhood Watch members and law enforcement.
2. Recruit new Neighborhood Watch members to reach 100 percent participation in your neighborhood.
3. Maintain and distribute the Member List.
4. Distribute Neighborhood Watch materials and information to members in a timely manner.
5. Initially confirm Operation ID requirements are completed. Annually follow-up with active members to encourage updating Operation ID.
6. Notify members of Neighborhood Watch meetings.
7. Encourage members to call 911 before contacting you of unusual or suspicious activities and document it on the Neighborhood Activity Log. (Form may be downloaded from our website.)
8. Record situations when members called 911 on the Neighborhood Activity Log. Provided information to law enforcement to help track criminal activity in your neighborhood.

Participant Responsibilities:

1. Attend meetings and get acquainted with neighbors.
2. Keep your Member List in an easily accessible location.
3. Make your home as burglar-resistant as possible.

Daily Tips:

1. Be observant. Report suspicious activities to 911 and Neighborhood Watch Captain.
2. Educate children about crime prevention. Stress the importance of 911 and helping law enforcement.
3. Do not physically confront suspicious individuals. Call 911.

Tools:

- ◇ *Member List*
 - Provides immediate contact information in the event of suspicious activities.
- ◇ *Neighborhood Watch Signs*
 - Warns potential thieves of law enforcement partnership with residents.
 - Identifies property as documented by Operation ID.
- ◇ *Neighborhood Watch Window Decals*
 - Emblems can be used on windows, gates, doors, mailboxes, etc.
 - Identifies property as documented by Operation ID.
- ◇ *Neighborhood Street Map*
 - Guide for participants and law enforcement, fire, rescue or other emergency personnel.
 - Informs other participants who is an active member.

For Emergencies, call 911.

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