

## Forming a Watch

Forming a Neighborhood Watch is a challenge. Here are a few tips to get you and your group started:

- Contact your Crime Prevention deputy to discuss the Neighborhood Watch program requirements and receive an organizer's packet.
- Form an organizing committee of neighbors to discuss needs, the level of interest, possible challenges, and the Neighborhood Watch concept.
- Schedule an informational meeting for your neighbors. This meeting is to gauge the interest of your neighbors, explain the program requirements, and determine if there is enough interest to proceed.
- You may consider asking a representative from the Sheriff's Office to attend your meeting if there are particular concerns. This generally is not necessary at this point in the process.

## Maintaining a Watch

Keeping neighbors interested in Neighborhood Watch is usually not as difficult as getting the program started in the first place. Nonetheless, here are some tips for keeping your group focused:

- Keep your neighbors' contact information up to date.
- Recruit new members! People move in and out all the time, so when you get a new neighbor, welcome them to the neighborhood and get them involved in the watch program.
- Hold regular events or meetings. Remember that the foundation of Neighborhood Watch is neighbors knowing neighbors. Plan an annual picnic or barbeque to continue to develop relationships with your neighbors and meet new neighbors.
- Gather information from your Crime Prevention Deputy on any developing crime trends. If you hear rumors from members, check with the Sheriff's Office and distribute accurate information.

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### Integrity

We interact with each other and the community we serve with honesty, dignity, and respect.

### Innovation

We respond to the community's needs with vision and initiative, relying on both traditional and non-traditional problem-solving methods.

### Partnership

We actively promote a spirit of teamwork and cooperation through open communication and the free exchange of ideas.

### Service

We continuously develop our skills and talents to provide top quality, responsive, effective law enforcement services.

### Accountability

We ensure judicious management of human, financial, and physical resources.

### Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

200 Jefferson County Parkway  
Golden, CO 80401

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Phone: 303.277.0211

Emergency: Dial 911

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S H E R I F F

# Neighborhood Watch



*Is your neighborhood ready to resist crime?*



02/22/2010

# Neighborhood Watch



*Crime and fear of crime threaten the well-being of the community. You and your neighbors can prevent crime and reduce*

*fear, and in the process, build your community into a safer, friendlier and more caring place to live.*

*Through the Neighborhood Watch program, in partnership with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, you can address immediate crime problems, focus on home security, and build neighborhood unity. Law enforcement agencies throughout the country report substantial decreases in crime and fear because of local crime prevention efforts.*

## About Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime creates and feeds upon, forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries and other crimes, and improves relations between police and the communities they serve.

- Any resident can join.
- Members learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report suspicious activities to the police.
- A watch group can be formed around any geographical unit -- a block, apartment building, subdivision, townhome complex, etc.
- Members of watch groups are *not* vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears reporting crime to the police and helping neighbors.

## Why is Neighborhood Watch Important?

Law enforcement agencies cannot be everywhere, all the time. Police rely on assistance from the public to help them prevent and solve crimes.

Most neighborhood crime in Jefferson County is opportunistic and can be effectively reduced through simple crime prevention techniques.

## Requirements

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has two requirements for active Neighborhood Watch groups:

- **Participation.** We require 80 percent participation in the coverage area. You decide what area your group will cover. It can be as small as 4-5 houses on one cul-de-sac, or as large as an entire subdivision. Either way, 80 percent of the residents must participate in the program.



- **One social event per year.** The foundation of Neighborhood Watch is neighbors knowing neighbors. Social events promote interaction with neighbors and promote community spirit. We suggest planning a social event around National Night Out (the first Tuesday in August).

## How to Start a Neighborhood Watch

Please contact a Crime Prevention deputy:  
303-271-5363 (north Jeffco)  
720-497-7860 (mountains)  
or 720-377-2002 (south Jeffco)

## Captain & Coordinator

Each group has a captain and a coordinator. These group leaders maintain lists of participating neighbors, solicit concerns from neighbors, and help distribute crime prevention literature.



## Members

Members are tasked with getting to know their neighbors and developing a sense of what is "normal" in their neighborhood (i.e., what cars belong there). They are also expected to attend occasional Neighborhood Watch meetings, recruit new members, and most importantly, report suspected criminal activities to the Sheriff's Office (and later to the Neighborhood Watch captain).

## Benefits of the Program

The main benefits of this program are reduced crime and improved quality of life. To help achieve these goals, active Neighborhood Watch communities receive Neighborhood Watch signs purchased and installed by the county, Neighborhood Watch stickers and promotional materials. Active groups also receive direct communication from the Sheriff's Office about crime trends in the watch area.

Neighborhood Watch communities also benefit from the unity they create: concerns about neighborhood safety are presented to the Sheriff's Office with a unified voice.