



STARTING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

How to Start A Neighborhood Watch Group in 5 Easy Steps

1. Recruit and Organize as many neighbors as possible

It is wonderful that you are taking the steps to start a Neighborhood Watch group in your neighborhood. The first step is talking to your fellow neighbors about starting a group.

2. Contact your local law enforcement agency and schedule a meeting

The next step is contacting your local law enforcement agency. Invite them to meet with your Watch Group. Local law enforcement can provide materials for your meeting. It is essential for your group to work in collaboration with law enforcement because Neighborhood Watch is a cooperative effort.

3. Discuss community concerns and develop an action plan

If law enforcement is unavailable to come to the first meeting you might want to have a meeting to discuss the concerns and issues in the neighborhood. Your group should create a plan on how to work towards lessening the impact of the top 3 concerns of neighbors. There are wonderful resources that you can use to guide you.

4. Create a communication plan

It is **vitaly important** to decide what type of communication will work for your watch group – meetings, email, social media or another means.

5. Take Action: Hold Meetings and Events, Share information

The Neighborhood Watch Coordinator has a number of wonderful training topics and meeting ideas that can be useful to your group. It is important to share emails received from the Police Department with your neighbors.

What are some of the benefits of starting a Watch Group?

- Partnerships with Law Enforcement and your Neighbors
- Reduction in Crime
- A More Secure and Better Prepared Community
- A More United Community
- Improved Communications
- Neighborhood Watch Street signs maybe available if your group qualifies. See *the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for more information.*