

Neighborhood Watch Lubbock

What is the Purpose of a Neighborhood Watch Program?

The purpose of a neighborhood watch program is to know who your neighbors are in order to establish a program of mutual assistance and report suspicious activity to police, thereby implementing a crime prevention program that can help deter criminal activity in your neighborhood and make it better. In other words, the goal is to get to know your neighbors and look out for each other.

How do you start a Neighborhood Watch Program?

First, determine if there is a need for and if there is an interest in a watch program where you live. At minimum, invite neighbors who have a fairly direct view of each other's houses or apartments. For a standard city block, this might include both sides of the street, corner houses that look down your block, and backyard neighbors when applicable. Remember, don't get carried away! You want a small group of neighbors that you mutually trust, not a group of strangers too large to know each other by name. The point is to look out for each other, so all of your decisions should work towards that goal.

After you determine whether there is enough interest to start a neighborhood watch group you will want to establish a watch area from the interested parties and begin speaking with them about what types of activities they are willing to participate in. These activities could be anything from a simple exchange of names, numbers, addresses or other information for calls in reference to suspicious activity, to agreements to check on each other's homes when gone, or to safely surveil the neighborhood during different times of day. These are agreements that you and interested neighbors agree on that assist you in looking out for each other and can change from group to group.

What's Next?

After you establish your group, determine the information you wish to share, and the type of activities that you wish to participate in, you may wish to elect a representative to organize meetings (monthly, bimonthly, as you agree is necessary) and talk about your response to known problems and what to do if you observe suspicious situations. At this point you may wish to contact the Police Department and meet with your local beat officer and/or request additional information from the police department's community engagement unit.

What Can I Do As A Watch Member?

One of the most important questions about neighborhood watch should be, "what can we do now that we have a group formed and we know the different problems that we face." The best answer to the question is located in the name of the group, which is WATCH. The goal of the group as previously stated is to look out for each other. This is done through watching the neighborhood and reporting what you see to law enforcement. You should learn what is normal for your neighborhood and then call the police when you observe suspicious activity. You can request an officer check the area or place watches in reference to this activity, make reports about criminal events, and submit tips to crime line when you have information about potential crimes that have taken place, are taking place, or may take place in the future.

To request a watch or the response of an officer in reference to suspicious activity (that is not an emergency) you can call the Lubbock Police non-emergency line at 806-775-2865.

To request more specific information regarding police matters, make a phone report, or request to meet you can call the Lubbock Police Desk at 806-775-2816.

To make an online report, view the sex offender map, submit a crime line tip online, and get other police information go to lubbockpolice.com.

Remember, there are also concerns that can be addressed in neighborhood watch groups other than that of crime prevention alone. This might include the need for or repair of street lights, potholes, late trash pick-up, junk vehicles, substandard housing, stray dogs, other dangerous animals, or electrical dangers. For calls involving these types of issues you can call 311 and an operator will help you get in contact with someone who can assist you and your neighborhood.

Never Put Yourself In A Dangerous Situation

It is crucial to mention that when setting up and participating in a neighborhood watch group, you should never put yourself in a dangerous situation. The goal of a watch group is not to confront a suspicious person nor engage in any type of life threatening or confrontational activity. The purpose is to know your neighbors, support your community, and report suspicious or criminal activity to the police department. Trained officers can then address these situations and take the appropriate actions to help.

The Lubbock Police Department is dedicated to the service of the Lubbock community and we want to help. The more information we obtain from the good citizens of Lubbock the better equipped we will be to address the issues that each neighborhood and the city at large faces. Thank you for your interest in Neighborhood Watch and remember to call 911 in an emergency.

If you have any questions not covered in this document, please feel free to contact the Community Engagement Unit:

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