

ALERT NEIGHBORS / NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Crime Watch -- whatever the name, it's one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear in your neighborhood. It helps to make a bond among area residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies and improves relations between police and the communities they serve.

WHY ALERT NEIGHBORS / NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

- It works. Throughout the country, decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law enforcement officers in communities with active Alert Neighbors / Neighborhood Watch programs.
- Today's transient society produces communities that are less personal. Many families have two working parents and children involved in many activities that keep them away from home. An empty house in a neighborhood where none of the neighbors know the owner is a prime target for burglary.
- A Watch program also helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns such as recreation for youth, child care, and affordable housing.

HOW TO START YOUR – ALERT NEIGHBORS / NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

A motivated individual, a few concerned residents, a community organization, or a law enforcement agency can start the efforts to establish a Watch Program. Together they:

- Organize a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss needs, the level of interest, and possible community problems.
- Contact the local police or sheriff's department, or the Crime Commission, for help in training members in home security and reporting skills and for information on local crime patterns.

- Hold an initial meeting for interested neighbors; establish the purpose of the program, and begin to identify issues that need to be addressed.
- Select a Coordinator.
- Ask for Block Captain Volunteers who are responsible for relaying information to members.
- Recruit members, keeping up-to-date information on new residents and making special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents, and young people.
- Work with the Crime Commission to install **ALERT NEIGHBORHOOD** street signs.

WHO CAN BE INVOLVED?

Any community resident can join – young and old, single and married, renter and homeowner. Even the busiest of people can belong to **ALERT NEIGHBORS / NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM**. They too can keep an eye out for neighbors as they come and go.

I live in an apartment building – can I start an Alert Neighbors / Neighborhood Watch Program?

Yes, Watch Groups can be formed around any geographical unit: a block, apartment building, townhouse complex, park, business area, public housing complex, office building, or marina.

WHAT does an Alert Neighbors / Neighborhood Watch do?

- They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors.
- Members meet their neighbors; learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicions to the police or sheriff's office.
- Mark valuable property with an identifying number (Operation I.D.) to discourage theft and help law enforcement agencies identify and return stolen property.

What are the major components of an Alert Neighbors / Neighborhood Watch Program?

- **Meetings.** These should be set up on a regular basis such as bi-monthly, monthly, or six times a year.
- **Citizens Alert Patrol (CAP).** A Citizens Alert Patrol is made up of volunteers who walk or drive through the community and alert police to crime and questionable activities. All neighborhoods may not need a citizens alert patrol.
- **Communications.** These can be as simple as a weekly flier posted on community announcement boards, to a monthly newsletter that updates the neighborhood.
- **Special events.** These are crucial to keeping the watch program going and growing. Meetings that focus on current issues such as "hate" or bias motivated violence, crime in schools, teenage alcohol and other drug abuse, or domestic violence, Adopt a park or school playground and Paint over graffiti. Sponsor a block party, or softball game which will provide neighbors a chance to get to know each other.
- **Addressing other aspects of community safety.** For instance start a block parent program to help children in emergency situations.

WHAT are my responsibilities as a member?

- Be alert!
- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other.
- Report suspicious activities and crimes to the police or sheriff's department.
- Learn how you can make yourself and your community safer.

What kind of activities should I be on the lookout for as an Alert Neighbors / Neighborhood Watch member?

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking in windows of houses and parked cars.
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home or from closed businesses.
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or with-out lights.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle. A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.
- Report these incidents to the police or sheriff's department. Talk about concerns and problems with your neighbors.

How should I report these incidents?

- **Call 9-1-1** or your local emergency number.
- Give your name and address.
- Explain what happened.
- Briefly describe the suspect; sex and race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, distinctive characteristics such as beard mustache, scars, or accent.
- Describe the vehicle if one was involved; color, make, model year, license plate, and special features such as stickers.
- Or any thing that stand out such as one fender being another color or large dents in the door or rear end.

Crime Commission – Alert Neighbors 585-5209

Code Enforcement – Tulsa 596-7698
Code Enforcement – Broken Arrow 259-8339
Mayor's Action Center – Tulsa 596-2100
Water Department – Tulsa 596-9488
Animal Control – Tulsa 596-9771
Animal Control – Broken Arrow 259-8311



Crime Commission
2121 South Columbia, LL # 8
Tulsa, OK 74114

Phone 585-5209 Fax 585-1015
www.crimecomok.org

**TAKE A STAND
AGAINST CRIME**

**Alert Neighbors /
Neighborhood watch
Join Today**



THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IS WATCHED
CALL 911



Crime Commission

***Community safety is a matter
community involvement.
Together we will make your
Community a safer place to live
work and play.***