



## BENEFITS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

- Deters criminal activity.
- Creates a greater sense of security and reduces fear of crime.
- Builds bonds with neighbors. People look out for one another and this stimulates neighborhood awareness.
- Reduces the risk of becoming a crime victim and in turn reduces the physical, financial and psychological costs of crime.
- Instructs residents on how to observe and report suspicious activities in your community. Offers continued education and resource contact for victims of crime.
- Addresses quality of life issues and mutual interests in your community.
- Enhances homeland security.
- Works collaboratively with other civic and community activities.

## Why Neighborhood Watch?

### Crime Prevention Survey

The National Crime Prevention Council, with support from ADT Security Services, Inc., releases a periodic national crime survey: **Are We Safe?** This survey measures attitudes and behaviors about crime prevention throughout the country.



Despite decreases in crime, the 2000 and 2001 survey found that fear and anxiety about crime persists. If we do not feel safe in our communities, we change our activities and withdraw from community life. This negative chain reaction perpetuates itself: generating more fear, isolation and increased crime. **Among the findings:**

- Seventeen percent of the people surveyed said they were more fearful of walking in their neighborhoods this year than last.
- Nearly one-half of the respondents could name at least one program in their community that prevents crime. Neighborhood watch was cited by 45 percent of those surveyed.

- Approximately one in six Americans or seventeen percent of volunteers are in a program that prevents crime. Of those who are volunteers, four in ten works with neighborhood watch.

While Americans are concerned about the safety of their children, they expose them to risks or crime and violence:

- Three out of ten families left children under 18 years of age at home without adult supervision for at least 30 minutes during the work week.
- One in four families left a child at home without adult care for 30 minutes or more at least sometime during the weekend.
- More than three out of ten parents never ask about alcohol and firearms storage in homes where their children play.

Although fear or at least uneasiness about crime is extensive, many adults are ready, willing, and able to become active in their neighborhoods. This survey finding shows promise since we know that involvement of residents and stakeholders is among the best remedies to crime.

Additional results include:

- About eight in ten of us have a neighbor who would watch our homes while we are away.
- One in five Americans who doesn't volunteer explains that it is because he/she is unaware of where to go or whom to contact.
- Eighty-three percent agree or strongly agree that we should work with our neighbors to solve community problems.

In order to strengthen the social and economic fabric of our neighborhoods, neighborhood watch groups and other crime prevention organizations need to galvanize volunteers and reach out to the 41 million adults who could be recruited just by informing them of how to get involved.

## How Do I Get Started?



### Step 1:

Contact the Firestone Police Departments Crime Prevention Officer at 303-833-0811. This officer will help you get started. If a Neighborhood Watch program is already established in your area, the officer will get you connected and introduce you to your neighborhood association's Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.



➡ **Step 2:**

The Crime Prevention Officer or the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator will personally meet with you to explain the easy set up process. At that meeting you will be given a packet of information to help you get started.

➡ **Step 3:**

Talk to your neighbors about the Neighborhood Watch program and explain its benefits.

➡ **Step 4:**

With the help of your neighbors, decide the best date, time and location for your initial Neighborhood Watch meeting. At this meeting the Crime Prevention Officer will explain the program and discuss crime prevention tips and criminal trends. Take this opportunity to mention any crime-related concerns to the officers. The Firestone Police Department has many additional programs that support safe and secure neighborhoods.

## Maintaining Your Neighborhood Watch

To enhance the effectiveness of Neighborhood Watch on your block:

- Keep the lines of communication open. Knowledge helps build awareness.
- Hold regular meetings or events. They serve as opportunities to keep you and your neighborhood connected. A united neighborhood experiences fewer crime problems.
- Update all neighborhood information at least once a year. Take the opportunity to update the list if a new neighbor joins or if a neighbor moves away.

## Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Becoming a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator is an important contribution towards eliminating crime on your street or block. Serving as a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator is rewarding and provides meaningful opportunities to build and strengthen partnerships with neighbors, crime prevention services, neighborhood associations, the police department, the fire department, and town government.



By being a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator you can organize a neighborhood watch, business watch, apartment watch, foot patrol, and other crime prevention activities. Most importantly you will get to know your neighbors and make Firestone a safer place block by block.

# Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Roles and Responsibilities



## Role

The role of a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator is to assist in crime prevention efforts with the Firestone Police Department. The primary role of the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator is to be a:

- Leader
- Communicator
- Problem Solver

## Responsibilities



- Serves as the primary leader for an organized Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch, or Apartment Watch and encourages community participation.
- Coordinates the design, development and distribution of the current and up to date block map, telephone tree, and block profile and provides relevant information to the Crime Prevention Officer.
- Ensures that the block-map, phone tree and block profile forms are up to date, and that the Crime Prevention Officer has a current copy.
- Relays information about crime and nuisance activity on the block to the Crime Prevention Officer and designated police officer.
- Acts as the primary contact person between the Crime Prevention Officer and the designated police officer.
- Assist neighbors in accessing town/county crime prevention resources.
- Works with the Crime Prevention Officer and the designated officer to resolve community issues.
- Coordinates the welcoming of new participants into the Neighborhood, Business, and Apartment Watch.
- Coordinates the problem solving efforts, meeting and social gatherings.
- Recruits block members to attend additional training opportunities.
- Finds a replacement if no longer able to fulfill the duties of a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.