

## COMMUNITY WATCH SECURITY TIPS

### MAKE SURE YOUR HOME LOOKS OCCUPIED

LEAVE SOME LIGHTS AND A RADIO ON WHEN YOU'RE OUT.

### LOCK YOUR DOORS

NEVER LEAVE YOUR HOUSE OPEN "EVEN FOR A MOMENT." ALWAYS LOCK YOUR DOORS WHEN OUT.

### USE DEADBOLT LOCKS

A DEAD BOLT LOCK IS A GOOD DETERRENT TO BURGLARS.

### DON'T HIDE A KEY OUTSIDE

BURGLARS KNOW ALL THE SECRET HIDING PLACES.

### DRILL AND PIN YOUR WINDOWS

### BRACE SLIDING GLASS DOORS

IF THE DOOR IS BRACED, A BURGLAR WILL HAVE TO MAKE A LOT OF NOISE TO BREAK the glass.

### INSTALL GOOD EXTERIOR LIGHTING

MOTION SENSOR LIGHTS AND OTHER GOOD LIGHTING DON'T LET A BURGLAR HIDE IN THE DARK..

### KEEP BUSHES AND SHRUBS TRIMMED

IF BUSHES ARE TO HIGH, SOMEONE HIDING NEAR YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS CANNOT BE SEEN.

### STOP MAIL AND PAPER DELIVERIES

WHEN GONE FROM HOME A BUILD UP OF THESE IS A SURE SIGN NO ONE IS HOME..

### GET A DOG

EVEN A BARK FROM A SMALL DOG CAN BE A DETERRENT TO A BURGLAR.

### INSTALL AN ALARM SYSTEM

HOUSES WITH ALARMS ARE USUALLY AVOIDED.

PROVIDED BY:  
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**WARNING!**

## COMMUNITY WATCH

This community is protected by a community watch program. All illegal and suspicious activity will be reported to the **POLICE!**

All items of value on these premises have been marked for the ready identification by law enforcement agencies anywhere in the United States.

**COMMUNITY WATCHES  
THE WAY TO A CRIME FREE  
AND  
SECURE  
NEIGHBORHOOD**

## WHAT IS COMMUNITY WATCH?

**COMMUNITY WATCH** is a Crime Prevention program that involves citizens working with each other and with law enforcement agencies to reduce crime and victimization in their communities. It involves:

1. Citizens protecting themselves and their property by using common sense crime prevention practices.
2. Neighbors getting to know each other and acting on or reporting suspicious activities.
3. Citizens working with groups, community leaders, and, more importantly, law enforcement agencies to make entire communities safe and free from crime.

CITIZEN ALERT, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, BLOCK WATCH, or COMMUNITY WATCH: the names may differ, but the idea is the same. Neighbors looking out for each other.

### WHY START A COMMUNITY WATCH?

Because law enforcement officers cannot be on every street corner, citizen involvement is necessary to combat crime. On average, there are approximately two law enforcement officers for every 1,000 citizens.

You and your neighbors are the ones who really know what is going on in your community. By cooperating with each other and with the police, citizens can help fight crime in the most effective way—preventing the victimization of themselves, their families and friends. You're the key element in fighting crime. GET INVOLVED!

### COMMUNITY WATCH WORKS

The goal of COMMUNITY WATCH is to make criminals aware that every move is being watched and will be reported to the police.

Across Tennessee, citizens work together to secure their homes, mark their valuables, identify drug dealers, develop child safety programs, and improve the environment in which they and their families live.

## TO START A COMMUNITY WATCH

1. Contact your local Police or Sheriff's Department about setting up a COMMUNITY WATCH program. They can assist with information, materials and technical advice. Ask for the crime prevention officer.
2. Schedule a meeting with your neighbors in a church, home, community building, volunteer fire department or other location.
3. Invite the Crime Prevention Officer or other law enforcement officer to speak at your original meeting to help get your COMMUNITY WATCH program started.
4. Contact every resident in your community and invite them to the meeting. Do this by making door-to-door visits, phone calls, or mailing flyers.
5. Hold your meeting.

## COMMUNITY WATCH WORKS WHEN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED AND STAY INVOLVED

### SOME COMMUNITY WATCH ACTIVITIES

**Operation I.D.** This program involves engraving your valuable personal property with your driver's license number thus making it easier to identify if it is stolen.

**Community Clean-Up** Sponsor a community clean-up effort with your group. You are already working on cleaning up the crime in your community—make it a beautiful place to live at the same time. Remember, crime will thrive in a place where it appears that crime exist.

**VICTIM ASSISTANCE** Should one of your neighbors be victimized, you can know how to help that person. Contact the local victim's advocate's office, the Division of Victim and Justice Services, or the Department of Social Services for more information.

**McGRUFF House** your group may wish to sponsor a McGRUFF House program for children. This gives a child a safe and designated place to go if they feel frightened or threatened.

**Community Watch Signs** you may wish to purchase signs that identify your community as a place where citizens look after each other and their property. Your local law enforcement agency will be able to assist you and may provide this.

**National Night Out** Every year, the National Town Watch Association invites communities to participate in National Night Out Against Crime. Contact your local law enforcement agency or the Crime Prevention Unit of the Governor's Crime Commission for more information.

**Awareness programs** There may be some specific crime problems in your neighborhood that your Community Watch group wants to target. Educate your members on such topics as:

**Drug Abuse Prevention**

**Sexual Abuse Prevention**

**Child Abuse Prevention**

**Domestic Abuse Prevention**

**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design**

... and many others. **Don't limit yourselves!**

**REMEMBER: Criminals gravitate to places where they feel safe and secure. They avoid neighborhoods where they are likely to get caught. When they are neither wanted nor welcome, they go someplace else. Start a COMMUNITY WATCH program today!!**