

RECOMMENDED NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES

The following activities sponsored by your *Neighborhood Watch* group can improve your community's safety and well-being.

- * Conduct home security surveys and mark your valuables using the guidelines in the Operation Identification brochure. Remember to include any elderly and/or disabled neighbors.
- * Organize citizen patrols to alert deputies about crime and suspicious activities in your neighborhood.
- * Create a phone number resource list for your *Neighborhood Watch* group so you can quickly contact each other in emergency situations.
- * Work with local building code officials to require adequate locks and other security devices in new homes and buildings.
- * Publish a local newsletter that provides local crime news, and crime prevention tips, and recognizes the accomplishments of *Neighborhood Watch* members.
- * Have meetings that educate members about isolation of the elderly, drug abuse, crimes in school, after-school programs, child safety, victim services, or whatever issues are important to your *Neighborhood Watch* group.

*This crime prevention information
brought to you by the*

SONOMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

JIM PICCININI
Sheriff-Coroner



IMPORTANT SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	9-1-1
Non -Emergency	565-2121
BUSINESS	
Santa Rosa	565-2650
Sonoma	996-9495
Guerneville	869-0202
COPPS	565-7395
Crime Prevention	565-7398
Graffiti Hotline	565-7397

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM



WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program which enlists the active participation of citizens, in cooperation with law enforcement, to reduce crime in our community.

IT INVOLVES...

- * Neighbors getting to know each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance.
- * Citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious activity and identify vehicles that are not usually in the area.
- * The implementation of crime prevention techniques, such as home security, vehicle security and Operation Identification.

WHY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

- * Over 40 million crimes are committed every year nationwide and the number is still growing.
- * There can't be a law enforcement officer on every corner, so citizen involvement is essential to combat this social crisis.
- * By cooperating with each other and the police, people can help fight crime in their community the most effective way - before it begins.



PERSONAL SECURITY

Want to make life more difficult for criminals? By taking a few simple precautions you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a crime and also discourage those who commit crimes.

BE PREPARED

Always be alert and aware of your surroundings. Develop a plan.

Avoid situations which would make you vulnerable to crime (i.e., overloading yourself with baggage, parking in dark parking lots or alleyways).

SAFETY AT HOME

Use timing devices to turn on outside and inside lighting, TV's, radios.

Use a peephole to check the full view outside before opening the door and always keep the door locked, even if you are only leaving for a few minutes.

Don't hide keys outdoors. Change locks if you are moving into a new apartment or house...you never know who has the keys.

Use initials rather than your first name in the phone book and on your mailbox.

Ask all service company employees for I.D.

Don't open the door to a stranger requesting help or the use of your telephone. Offer to make the call yourself.

If you see someone in your area who looks out of place or is acting suspiciously, contact the Sheriff's Department.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Getting involved in your neighborhood takes little effort. This is your opportunity to be instrumental in reducing crime.

FIRST - Contact the Crime Prevention Unit of the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department and let us know you are interested in *Neighborhood Watch*. We want to hear from you.

NEXT - A Community Services Officer assigned to your area will call you and talk to you about *Neighborhood Watch* and what you can do to help.

THEN - You will receive a *Neighborhood Watch Guide* and other important information on how to get started.

REMEMBER - Law Enforcement cannot be everywhere at once. However, you and your neighbors can put your "Neighborhood Know How" to work.

