

# COMMUNITY WATCH SECURITY TIPS

**MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK OCCUPIED**  
Leave some lights and a radio on when you're out.

**LOCK YOUR DOORS**  
Never leave your house open for "just a moment,"  
always lock your doors when you are out.

**USE DEADBOLT LOCKS**  
A deadbolt 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**  
Window locks can be jimmied; pins cannot.

**BRACE SLIDING GLASS DOORS**  
If the door is braced, the only way a burglar can  
get through it is to break it.

**INSTALL GOOD EXTERIOR LIGHTING**  
Motion sensor lights and other good lights don't let  
a burglar hide in the dark.

**KEEP BUSHES AND SHRUBS TRIMMED**  
If bushes are too high, someone hiding near your  
windows and doors cannot be seen.

**STOP MAIL AND PAPER DELIVERIES**  
If you go on vacation, stop deliveries or have one  
of your neighbors collect your mail and papers.

**GET A DOG**  
Even a small dog may be a deterrent to a burglar.

**INSTALL AN ALARM SYSTEM**  
Houses with alarms are avoided by burglars.

PROVIDED BY:

and  
THE NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
CRIME CONTROL  
AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY

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Call for more information  
or assistance.

James B. Hunt, Jr., Governor  
Richard H. Moore, Secretary



# WARNING



## COMMUNITY WATCH

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

**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, watching out for 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 are 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 North Carolina, 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. Your local crime prevention officer may be able to supply you with an engraver.

**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 in at the same time.

**Victim Assistance** - Should one of your neighbors be victimized, you can know how to help that person. Contact the local victim's advocate 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 children a safe 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. Your local law enforcement agency will be able to assist you.

**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 North Carolina Crime Prevention Division 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 Protection

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!!