



# Block Watch Basics

*Starting a Block Watch in Your Neighborhood*



## What is Block Watch?



- The Block Watch program opens the lines of communication between neighbors, from citizens to the Police, and from the Police to the citizens.
- The program involves neighbors becoming familiar with one another and the neighborhood enough so that when something “out of the ordinary” happens, someone will immediately call 911 to report suspicious activity.
- The program is voluntary but is very effective in reducing crime.

## How Does Block Watch Help Me?

- You'll have a communications network to learn about crime activity in your neighborhood.
- You'll learn how to prevent and detect crime in your neighborhood.
- You'll know how to protect your valuables.
- You'll know that reporting suspicious persons immediately will help the Police respond quickly (and track such information).



## How Does Block Watch Work?



- Block Watch Captains serve as liaisons between the City and neighborhood.
  - This concept works for neighborhoods, shopping centers and apartment complexes.
- The City will gladly provide a presentation to your neighborhood, business or multi-family housing complex.
- BW neighborhoods are encouraged to create “Phone Trees”, “Email Distribution” and/or “Address Maps” that identify the homeowner’s name and emergency phone contact information.

## How Can I Get Started?



City of Woodinville  
 Block Watch Coordinator  
 Jason Burt  
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- Talk with your neighbors to see if they are interested in forming a Block Watch.
- Contact the Block Watch Coordinator to schedule a neighborhood meeting.
- Make up a neighborhood map and phone tree.
- Select a Block Watch Captain(s)

## What Does a Block Watch Captain Do?

- Coordinate at least one neighborhood meeting every year
- Receive and distribute special information such as crime alerts to Block Watch Members.
- Make sure phone/email tree and Neighborhood map are kept up to date.
- Contact new neighbors to see if they are interested in joining the Block Watch.
- Encourage residents to communicate with each other.



## Woodinville Block Watch Program

- Community Crime Prevention Handbook available upon request to help you get started with your Block Watch
- Operation Identification Handout
  - On-loan engraver to mark your personal property. Record forms to document your valuable property.
- Miscellaneous crime prevention flyers including “Preventing Auto Theft” and “Personal Safety”
- Provide a Block Watch Program presentation at you neighborhood meeting.
- Coordinate order of Block Watch signs
  - Signs can be purchased by homeowners and will be installed by the City.

## Crime Prevention Resources

- **On-Line Resources**
  - King County Sheriff - <http://www.metrokc.gov/sheriff/>
  - National Crime Prevention Council - <http://www.ncpc.org/>
  - National Citizens Crime Prevention Campaign – <http://www.weprevent.org/>
  - Washington State Crime Prevention Association - <http://wscp.innw.com/>