

What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective ways to prevent and reduce crime, address home and personal security, and reduce fear and isolation.

Neighborhood Watch is:

- Neighbors working together to reduce and prevent crime.
- Extra eyes and ears for reporting suspicious and criminal activity.
- Partnership between neighborhoods and law enforcement.



Why Neighborhood Watch?

It works! Throughout the country, dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active Watch programs.

On a national scale there is approximately one police officer for every 2,000 citizens. Neighborhood Watch greatly reduces this ratio of citizens to police by having citizens report suspicious and criminal activity to the police department.

Members of Watch groups get to know their neighbors, learn how to secure their homes and property, watch out for each other and their

neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicions to the police department.

Neighborhood Watch also helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns.



Goals and Objectives of Neighborhood Watch:

Goal: To reduce and prevent the incidence of residential crime in Boise Neighborhood Watch areas.

Objectives:

- To teach citizens how to secure their homes and reduce their chances of being victims of crime.
- To encourage neighbors to become better acquainted and to work together in a program of mutual assistance.
- To train citizens in recognition and reporting of suspicious activity.
- To open communication between neighborhoods and the Boise Police Department.



How Does a Neighborhood Watch Group Start?

A motivated individual, a few concerned residents, or a community organization can spearhead the efforts to establish a Watch group. They can contact the Boise Police Crime Prevention Unit for an informational booklet and to schedule the initial meeting with the neighbors.

The initial meeting will establish the purpose of the program, begin to identify issues that need to be addressed, train members in home security and reporting skills, and provide information on crime in that area.

Who Can Be Involved?

Any community resident can be involved – young and old, single and married, renter and homeowner. Even the busiest of people can belong to Neighborhood Watch – they too can keep an eye out for neighbors.



What Are the Major Components of a Watch Program?

- Neighborhood Get-togethers. Have a least one meeting or block party a year.
- Communication system. The email group and telephone tree are excellent forms of communicating with neighbors. Neighbors can quickly be alerted to crimes in their area.
- Organization. Select the chairman and block captains (if needed). The chairman provides leadership for the Watch group and acts as the contact person between the neighborhood and the Crime Prevention Unit.
- Distribution of crime prevention literature and newsletters.

What Are My Responsibilities as a Watch Member?

- Know your neighbors. Watch out for each other, work together, and communicate with your neighbors.
- Be informed and aware of area crime activity.
- Incorporate crime prevention strategies by lighting up your residence, locking your home and vehicles, and closing your blinds/drapes in the evening.

- Note license plate numbers and description of suspicious vehicles and persons.
- Report criminal and suspicious activity, and victimizations to the police department, and then to your Watch chairman.

Who Should I Call to Get Involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program?

**Boise Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
570-6070
www.boisepolice.org**

Call **911** for emergencies
Call **377-6790** for non-emergencies
(to report suspicious activity, report an abandoned vehicle, to contact a police officer)

TTY Relay: 800-377-3529



Boise Neighborhood Watch



Take A Stand Against Crime

