



TIPS ON STARTING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCHES

In the United States, a violent crime occurs every 19 seconds and a property crime every three seconds, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. In California alone, close to 2,000,000 crimes are reported each year.

Some people believe that crimes are a police problem, and there is nothing we, as citizens, can do about it. But, crime is not inevitable. Individuals can have an impact on crime by getting involved with their community and making crime prevention everyone's business.

“One of the best ways to get involved is by organizing a Neighborhood Watch group in your community,” says Don Moore, president of Moore Protection. “Studies prove that an active Neighborhood Watch program can reduce burglaries by as much as 61% and reduce all other types of crime by 58%. There is also a significant reduction in fear of crime among residents participating in Neighborhood Watch.”

To organize a Neighborhood Watch group in your community, follow these steps:

Step one:

- Contact your area crime prevention officer (at your local police department) who will help you get started and attend your meetings.
- Establish a meeting time and place convenient for everyone—a centrally located church, synagogue or meeting hall is best. The crime prevention officer (CPO) can help you get the word out and encourage residents to attend.

Step two:

- Hold your meeting with your CPO and exchange names, home and work telephone numbers for everyone in the group.

Step three:

- Get to know your neighbors and become familiar with their routines.
- Be alert. This is the most effective way to reduce crime in your neighborhood.
- Be suspicious. Report unusual activities to the police.
- Keep a trusted neighbor informed if your house will be unoccupied for an extended period of time.
- Look after your neighbor's houses when they are away.

Step four:

- Establish and attend regular Neighborhood Watch meetings with your local CPO.
- Obtain signs, stating that your neighborhood is part of Neighborhood Watch, from your CPO and post them in your area.

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Moore Protection encourages all residents to get involved and organize Neighborhood Watch programs, making our neighborhoods a safe place to live.

For Moore Protection's free *Guide to Family Safety and Home Security*, call Don Moore at 310-463-7631. Moore Protection, Inc. is a full service home security company that consults, designs, installs, services and monitors its own modern and robust security systems, and prides itself on fast response, quality service and personal attention.

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