

## How to Keep Your Neighborhood Watch

### Group Active



A decline in crime is not a reason to disband your neighborhood watch group. The following activities sponsored by your group can improve your community's safety and well being.

- Conduct home security surveys and Operation ID, and include elderly and handicapped residents.
- Be observant. Alert police about crime and suspicious activities on your streets or around apartment complexes.
- Create a phone number resource list for your group which can be used for emergencies, victim services, lighting, street repair, mediation services, youth activities, etc.
- Work with local building code officials to require adequate locks or other security devices in new homes and buildings.
- Publish a local news letter that provides crime news, crime prevention tips ,and recognizes the accomplishments of Neighborhood Watch members
- Have regular meetings that education members about elderly neighbors, drug abuse, crime in schools, after-school programs, child safety, etc.
- Additional ideas for communication? Start an email blast to neighbors, group text messaging or a neighborhood facebook page can all be useful tools to stay connected.

## Mission Statement

*The Kern County Sheriff's Office is committed to work in partnership with our community to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for the residents and visitors of Kern County through professional public safety services.*



## Important Phone Numbers

Law Enforcement \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Department \_\_\_\_\_

Block Captain \_\_\_\_\_

To contact the Kern County Sheriff's Office:

Emergency: **9-1-1**

Non-Emergency: **(661) 861-3110**

Non-Emergency Outlying Areas: **1-800-861-3110**

Sheriff's Report Desk (Bakersfield only): **(661)391-7471**

Text-A-Tip: **KERN SHERIFF to 888777**

**WWW.NIXLE.COM**

Report Drug Activity: (661) 392-6000

Report Gang Activity: (661) 392-6003

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



**THE EYES AND EARS OF  
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

This brochure is a publication of the  
Kern County Sheriff's Office  
Crime Prevention Unit  
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Raidsonline.com

## What Is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that involves citizen participation.

Neighborhood Watch groups serve as an extra set of “eyes and ears” for their neighbors, and for law enforcement. The program operates on the concept that effective crime prevention requires citizen cooperation with law enforcement. The goal is to create an environment where people care about each other and their community.

You, as a member of a Neighborhood Watch group, can improve the quality of life in your community. You can reduce opportunities for crime by taking steps to secure your home and property, watching out for suspicious activity, and working with law enforcement to help solve a crime when it occurs.

Although crime reduction is the main focus of Neighborhood Watch, the most important aspect of the program is the positive change in the quality of life which accompanies a vital, involved Neighborhood Watch Program.

## Looking out for Suspicious Activity

Things to Watch out for in your neighborhood:

- A person running from a car or home
- A person screaming
- A person going door to door in the neighborhood
- A person looking into windows and parked cars
- A person asking for past residents
- A person loitering around the neighborhood
- Unusual or suspicious noises that you cannot explain
- Vehicles moving slowly without lights or any apparent destination
- Business transaction conducted from a vehicle.



This could involve the sale of drugs or stolen goods

- Offers of merchandise available for low prices. The merchandise may be stolen
- A person removing property from a closed business or unoccupied home
- A stranger entering a neighbor's home when it appears to be unoccupied
- A child resisting the advances of an adult

## How to Report A Crime or Suspicious Activity

Law enforcement needs quick, accurate information about crimes in progress and/or suspicious activity. It is also important to know how and when to use the emergency 9-1-1 system, and when it is more appropriate to use the non-emergency phone line.

### Examples of Life Threatening Emergencies to use 9-1-1:

- A house is on fire
- A burglary is in progress
- A person has a gun
- There are either real or potential injuries

### Examples of non-emergencies:

- A car was stolen last night
- A burglary happened while you were at work



## Reporting Tips

- Give law enforcement your name
- Describe the event briefly and state concisely if you know who, what, where, when and how it happened
- State if the crime is in progress or it has already occurred
- Describe the suspect's sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, accent, beard, or mustache, and distinctive characteristics, like tattoos or scars
- If a vehicle is involved, describe the make, model, color, year, and license plate

## Home Security Tips

Simple Tips to Secure your Home:

- Lock all gates to side and backyards
- Keep bushes and trees neatly landscaped
- Use good door locks with deadbolts
- Install a peephole
- Secure sliding doors with broomstick or lock devices
- Secure windows with metal lock devices
- Keep your property well lit
- Secure your garage door, don't leave it open during the day.

