



# Neighborhood Watch

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Casey Police Department

# Neighborhood Watch: History



The current system of Neighborhood Watch began developing in the late 1960s as a response to the rape and murder of Kitty Genovese in Queens, New York in 1964. People became outraged after reports that twenty-eight (28) witnesses did nothing to save Genovese or to apprehend her killer. Some locals formed groups to watch over their neighborhoods and to look out for any suspicious activity in their areas. Shortly thereafter, the National Sheriffs Association began a concerted effort in 1972 to revitalize the "watch group" effort nationwide.



# Neighborhood Watch: A Joint Responsibility

The prevention of crime—particularly crime involving residential neighborhoods—is a responsibility that must be shared equally by law enforcement and private citizens. The fact is, *the impact on crime prevention by law enforcement alone is minimal when compared with the power of private citizens working with law enforcement and with each other.*



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH is based on this concept of cooperation, and nationwide statistics prove that it works. When citizens take positive steps to secure their own property and neighbors learn how to report suspicious activity around their homes, burglary and related offenses decrease dramatically.



# Neighborhood Watch: Drop in Crime

Throughout the United States, dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH programs.

Statistics show that when a concerned citizenry does its part, the possibilities are endless...and the results positive.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH is the most successful anticrime initiative in the country and the most effective and least expensive tool for restoring the safe, pleasant environment we all want for our families!



# Neighborhood Watch:

It is a fact of life that relationships in many of today's communities have become less personal than they were years ago.

Families are more transient, children have more activities that take them and their parents away from home, and there are more families with both parents working. The once-familiar sight of families visiting with each other on front porches while keeping a watchful eye on children and activities in the neighborhood is a rarity in most communities today.



This trend away from personal contact in the neighborhood and the decrease in time families spend at home are two of the essential ingredients that make communities ripe for crimes of opportunity, such as burglary.



# Neighborhood Watch: Burglary

Burglary, is defined as *the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. Burglary is the crime that is specifically targeted by a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Program.*

While it is one of the most prevalent and difficult crimes facing law enforcement today, it is, at the same time, the one major crime that CAN be effectively resisted by each citizen taking POSITIVE ACTION at home.



Burglary accounts for nearly one-third of the index crimes in the United States. Although it is generally considered a crime against property, it has a high potential for death or injury to the victim who comes into surprise contact with the burglar.

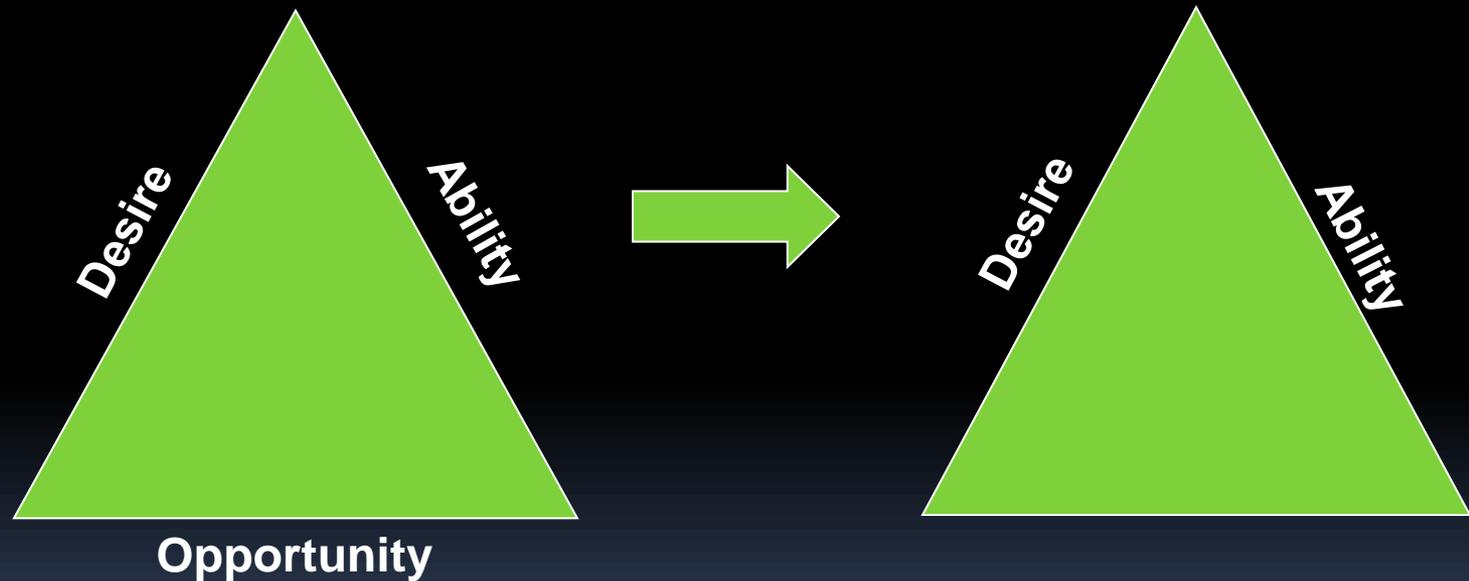
# Neighborhood Watch: Objectives

- Arrange for home security inspections by crime prevention officers to identify security concerns.
- Upgrade locks, security hardware, and lighting; and possibly installing alarms when security inspections show particular hazards.
- Educate residents to keep valuables secure and to lock doors and windows when leaving home; it is a good practice to keep doors locked whether anyone is at home or not.
- Educate residents to watch for suspicious activity when the house is vacant.
- Marking valuable property with an identifying number. (Operation I.D.) to discourage theft and help law enforcement agencies identify and return lost or stolen property;
- Encouraging the use/installation of effective door and window locks and to provide outside lighting.
- Encourage residents to lock their vehicles at all times.

# Neighborhood Watch: Objectives (Con't)

- Organizing block parent and block WATCH groups to assist children, the elderly, and other at risk persons, if they appear to be distressed, in danger, or lost.
- Meet in neighborhood groups with police officers to discuss needs and crime prevention strategies.
- Develop neighborhood “fan” or telephone tree systems for quickly alerting each other about criminal activity in the area;
- Arrange for ongoing programs where police officers can present home and neighborhood security tips at regularly scheduled meetings.
- Obtaining and studying informative materials from the National Sheriffs’ Association, the National Crime Prevention Council, and the local police department.
- Identifying the area’s participation with decals and metal road signs warning, “NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH – Our neighbors are watching to report suspicious activity to our law enforcement agency.”

# Neighborhood Watch: Goal



If opportunity is removed, the criminal may still have the desire and ability but without opportunity cannot commit the crime.



# Neighborhood Watch: Getting Organized

- Any community resident can join – young, old, single, married, renter or homeowner.
- Neighborhood Watch is independent of any other community organizations and is overseen by the Casey Police Department.
- Members will learn how to keep their homes more secure, watch out for their neighbors and report activities to the Casey Police Department.
- **Watch groups can be formed around any geographical unit: a block, street, park, school, church etc. The area may be determined by neighborhood interest. It is suggested that you strive for a 35% participation rate.**
- Someone in the group must assume the position of Area Leader and they will oversee their group and be responsible for planning the activities of that particular group.
- Keep in mind that watch groups are not vigilantes or law enforcement officers. They are the extra eyes and ears for the police department. Neighborhood Watch does not expect or require anyone to be placed in danger.

# Neighborhood Watch: 4 Steps to Starting

## 1. Contact the Casey Police Department:

- Call the department at 932-2800.
- Inquire about crimes or concerns in your neighborhood.

## 2. Talk to your neighbors:

- Canvass your neighborhood for interest.
- Explain the benefits of Neighborhood Watch.
- Ask about convenient times to schedule a meeting

### Be Sure to Mention:

- Neighborhood Watch does not require frequent meetings.
- It does not expose anyone to personal risk.
- Officers will attend the meeting and answer questions.
- Neighborhood Watch also serves as a vehicle to address other community concerns.

# Neighborhood Watch: 4 Steps to Starting

## **3. Arrange a Date, Time and Place for Meeting:**

Select date far enough in advance so everyone has adequate notice.

The location can be a church, school, etc., or may be a private residence, however make sure you have room for adequate seating.

Police Department will provide material.

Solicit volunteers to walk your selected area and pass out flyers to all residents.

Remind as many as possible 2-3 days before the meeting.

## **4. Hold First Meeting:**

First meeting will provide information about Neighborhood Watch

Provide simple refreshments such as Coffee, Tea and Cookies.

Have a table set up with sign-in sheet. (It is important to collect email addresses)

Limit programs to no more than one (1) hour.

Select Area Coordinator & Block Captains.

# Neighborhood Watch: Meeting Topics

- Vehicle Safety Tips
- Home Security Checklists
- Preventing Burglaries
- Domestic Violence
- Child Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Nuisance Complaints
- Sexual Assault
- Crime Scene Preservation and Processing
- Vacation Security
- Fraud



# Neighborhood Watch: Coordinator

- Recruit and select Block Captains Responsible for scheduling meetings
- Assess needs of the group to determine problems such as juvenile crime, vacant houses, drugs, speeding, dogs, etc. and what programs can be put into place to address these problems.
- Coordinate with assistance of Captains information and materials
- Distribute phone and email information, watch maps, crime prevention information and any other literature to Block Captains
- Meet with Block Captains as needed to :
  - Review Progress
  - Discuss information on criminal activity
  - Distribute materials
- Maintain communications. And serve as contact with other watch groups
- Establish and maintain contact with Casey Police Department
- Maintain updated files on membership and change in status

# Neighborhood Watch: Captains

- Make a personal visit to each home assigned to you and discuss the Neighborhood Watch Program. Give each person pamphlet information.
- Each person who wishes to participate should sign on the form provided. 35% participation is needed for the neighborhood to become active and to receive a Neighborhood Watch sign for their group.
- When the coordinator calls and give information about criminal activity, make sure you pass that information on to the homes you've been assigned.
- Welcome new neighbors that move into the area that you are assigned and explain to them the Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Keep forms updated and current. Notify Coordinator if a member moves or is no longer interested.
- Provide information about Operation Identification and home security surveys.
- Immediately relay information of criminal activity in the area to neighbors and to Police.
- Keep participants up to date on problems in the area.



Neighborhood Watch:

QUESTIONS?