

## *ORGANIZING THE PROGRAM*

Visit your neighbors and tell them you are interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch block group. Ask them for help in attaining the goal of discouraging crime in the neighborhood.

- ✓ Organize a neighborhood meeting. Contact the department's Crime Prevention Officer to be present to answer any questions that the group might have.
- ✓ If the group decides to organize a Neighborhood Watch program, a block captain should be elected.
- ✓ The block captain should prepare a neighborhood map showing names, addresses, phone numbers, and license plates, and distribute to members.
- ✓ Canvas door-to-door to recruit new members.
- ✓ Involve everyone: young and old, single and married, renter and homeowner.
- ✓ Once our department's requirements are met and 50 percent of the homes have joined, a street-sized Neighborhood Watch sign will be erected at the entrance of the neighborhood or block.



**For further information contact:**

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Neighborhood Watch is a proven crime-reduction program. However, like any self-help activity, its success depends upon you and your neighbors.

So help us help you in participating in the Shakopee Neighborhood Watch Program.

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## **Shakopee Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program**



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*Working Together to  
Provide a Safer  
Living Environment  
for Everyone*

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The purpose of this brochure is to explain how the Shakopee Police Department's Neighborhood Watch program works and provide direction on how to organize and maintain a successful program.

Neighborhood Watch was created to obtain citizen involvement in discouraging and preventing residential crime. The program uses citizen involvement to secure homes and personal property and to report any suspicious activity to the police.



## HOW IT WORKS

Neighborhood Watch operates to educate participants in the principles of deterrence, delay, and detection. The program depends on a communication network organized with three levels of participants: the block captain, the residents, and a member of our department.

Vigilante actions are in no way condoned by the Neighborhood Watch program.

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## PROGRAM DUTIES

Since awareness and involvement are the keys to a successful program, keeping interest high and continuing the group's crime prevention education must be a primary focus of all participants. Specific duties include:

### Block Captain

- ✓ Schedule a meeting in the first half of the year and encourage every homeowner to attend.
- ✓ Schedule a National Night Out block party (first Tuesday of August) every year. A Neighborhood Watch meeting should be incorporated within the party.
- ✓ Act as a liaison between the homeowners and the police department.
- ✓ Invite the department's Crime Prevention Officer to attend the meetings.
- ✓ Contact new neighbors about the program.
- ✓ Keep the neighborhood map data current and distribute copies to members.
- ✓ Disseminate any special information to the group such as crime patterns in the area or homeowners who are on vacation.

## PROGRAM DUTIES (Cont'd)

### Resident

- ✓ Attend the program meetings, and read the items distributed by the captains.
- ✓ Secure your home and personal property. Follow the recommendations given in the home security survey.
- ✓ Be alert for suspicious activity and report it to the authorities right away.
- ✓ When you are away for an extended period, temporarily stop newspaper delivery, have mail picked up, and leave a light on inside the residence.
- ✓ Inform your neighbors and block captain if you plan to be away for an extended period so that special attention can be given to your residence.
- ✓ Most important of all, enjoy the program.