

The ABC's of Neighborhood Watch

Any community resident can join whether you're young, old, single, married, renter, or home owner.

A few concerned residents or community organizations can spearhead an effort to organize a Neighborhood Watch.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with area residents, can take A Bite Out of Crime.

Participants learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report suspicious activities to the Sheriff's Office.

You can form a Neighborhood Watch around any geographic area, block, apartment complex, or business area.

Watch groups are not vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. Neighborhood Watch helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address community concerns such as beautification and disaster preparedness.

Forming a Neighborhood Watch

To form a Neighborhood Watch group, contact the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at (775) 240-2308.



The Coordinator will explain how to get your group started, including:

- Selecting a meeting place
- Developing a phone tree and an email group
- Recruiting members and making special efforts to include the elderly, working parents and young people
- Identify areas of concern that are specific to your neighborhood
- Identify topics of interest for future meetings
- The Neighborhood Watch Coordinator will communicate with residents via email or by phone if necessary

Once a group is formed, training topics can include, but are not limited to:

- How to be a good witness
- How to be a good observer
- What to do in an accident
- How to talk to dispatch

Benefits of a Neighborhood Watch:

- Help to deter crime
- Become more aware of your surroundings
- During your set meetings, guest speakers teach you what criminals are looking for in your area
- Learn how to be a good witness
- Work with law enforcement
- Become aware of crime in your area early on

Q & A: How effective can tips be?

A. "It is the power of the public. We have caught 1,000 fugitives in the 20 years that we have been on the air. We put the information out there to ask the public to do the right thing.

A lot of people are terrified of calling law enforcement and don't want to be involved in a person's prosecution.

Tips are vital!

We have caught the uncatchable because the public - average good hearted citizens - picked up the phone. People doing the right thing crack a huge percentage of cases. This is also true with Neighborhood Watch."

John Walsh
America's Most Wanted

Important Numbers

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency Dispatch	785-4629
Washoe Co. Sheriff's Office	328-3001
Code Enforcement	328-6106
Graffiti Removal	785-4629
Neighborhood Watch	240-2308

Chuck Allen, Sheriff

The Neighborhood Watch program has proven to be vital to law enforcement all over the country.



Washoe Co. Sheriff's Office
911 Parr Blvd.
Reno, Nevada 89512

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Together, we can
make a difference

