



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

An active Neighborhood Watch is one of the most successful and least costly crime prevention programs available. Neighborhood Watch is a cooperative effort between the police department and the community. An organized program is an invaluable tool and the best way to prevent crime in your neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch increases neighborhood awareness and encourages communication.

## Communication is Key

Communication among neighbors plays a big role in preventing crime in our community. Those who live in the neighborhood know the area best and can quickly tell when something is out of place or not right.

Crime may also be reduced through increased flow of information from the public to the police. An increase in information concerning crimes in progress, suspicious persons or events might lead to a greater number of arrests and convictions.



## Reporting Issues

It is important to report ongoing issues, suspicious activity or crimes that have already occurred. Residents in a neighborhood know the neighborhood best. They can be law enforcement's eyes and ears. When issues are reported it gives police an idea of what a neighborhood is experiencing so they can help with prevention measures.

It is important to always be the best witness you can be. Give clear and descriptive information to dispatchers or officers when reporting activity or crime. Also, if you see something that doesn't seem right, say something. You never know when one minor tip can lead to a major break in a case.

## Neighborhood Watch Signs

People often ask, "Do Neighborhood Watch signs really make your neighborhood safer?" A sign can't stop someone from committing a crime but it makes them think twice. A clear, well kept sign shows those entering your neighborhood that the people living there care and will take action when something doesn't seem right. Signs also remind those living in the neighborhood it is important to stay vigilant and report suspicious activities and crimes.



**Ada County Dispatch** (208) 377-6790

**Life Threatening/Medical Emergencies** 911

**Ada County Animal Care and Control** (208) 343-3166





# A GUIDE TO A SUCCESSFUL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

You and your neighbors are the ones who really know what is going on in your community. By cooperating with each other and law enforcement, citizens can help fight crime in their community in the most effective way – before it begins.

Most people do not realize how easily they can become victims, or how easily they can prevent crime from happening. By simply communicating with your neighbors making your premise secure, whether you are home or away, and always locking your garage and vehicles, your chances of being victimized are substantially reduced.



## Meetings and Program Maintenance

Neighborhood Watch Meetings should be held one to two times a year on average. Meetings give neighbors the opportunity to meet face to face, get to know each other, and discuss issues or concerns within the neighborhood.

After the initial meeting, we ask neighborhoods to schedule a meeting once a year with the police department to stay current on information and crime trends.

To maintain a successful Neighborhood Watch program it is important to stay in contact with your neighbors. This may be achieved by creating your own neighborhood contact list or communicating through your property management company.

## Q: What is a Neighborhood Watch Liaison and what is their role?

A Neighborhood Watch Liaison is a resident of the neighborhood who has submitted an application to the police department, passed a background check, and serves as the lead contact. The liaison will work with the Crime Prevention Unit to set up and plan meetings as well as receive and distribute information between the PD and the neighborhood when needed. The liaisons ongoing role is to maintain communication and connection between the neighborhood and the police department.

Neighborhood residents **should not** contact the liaison in place of calling the police for assistance. The liaison should only be notified of an incident **after** the issue has been reported to the police first. The liaison may contact the Crime Prevention Unit anytime the neighborhood has concerns or questions.

**For questions regarding Neighborhood Watch please contact:**

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