



City of Portland

Establishing Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is a program designed to increase the sense of safety and community in neighborhoods by involving individuals and their families in united crime prevention efforts through community organizing. When communities are able to take the time to build and maintain livable and cohesive neighborhoods, those neighborhoods and communities can become less vulnerable to crime. Neighborhood Watch is often formed when residents notice chronic problems and/or increase in crime and suspicious activities in their neighborhood. However, it is beneficial to organize one as a proactive measure.

The primary purposes of Neighborhood Watches are:

- To reduce crime and the fear of crime
- To prompt effective reporting of crime and livability issues
- To promote positive communication and relationships within neighborhoods and other public safety agencies

What type of Watch do you need?

Neighborhood Watch

This watch group refers to traditional neighborhoods including both renters and home owners. Single businesses within a residential neighborhood can be included. Watch groups are usually formed within one or two blocks.

Apartment Watch

This watch group refers to multi-family housing which includes but is not limited to duplexes, apartments, condos, and other forms of vertical housing establishments. Apartment Watch must include active residents and be tenant sponsored. Management is encouraged to support and assist these groups.

NOTE: If you are unsure which Watch group fits your community needs or for general information contact your Crime Prevention Team online at www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp or call 503.823.4064. Business Watch and Park Watch does not fall under the category of standard Neighborhood Watch. Please read "Establishing Your Business Watch" and "Establish Your Park Watch" available on Civic Life's handouts page: portlandoregon.gov/civic/76205

Neighborhood Watch Roles & Partners

Neighborhood Watches consist of members and partners who work collaboratively to help each other succeed. While neighborhood members are the ones who form the Watch groups, they also partner with others to achieve success. Partners to the Neighborhood Watch group include, but are not limited to: Crime Prevention Program, Police, Neighborhood Coalitions and Associations, Parks and Recreation staff and local community members.

Starting a Watch Group

MAKE CONTACT - Contact your Crime Prevention Team online and complete a Crime Prevention request/inquiry form at portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp or call our main line 503.823.4064 to be connected to a member of your Crime Prevention Team.

ASSIGN WATCH ORGANIZERS - Ideally, a Neighborhood Watch will have 1-2+ "Watch Organizers" (one is the minimum) who are in charge of inviting and hosting the formal training and keeping the neighborhood information up to date. Organizers are a community member from the establishing watch group.

PICK A DATE - Watch trainings are often hosted in the evening on weekdays, Monday-Friday. The initial training takes up-to 2 hours. Ideally, discuss with your neighbors some dates and times to propose to the Neighborhood Watch trainers for best attendance. Most trainings are scheduled with a one month waiting period due to the high volume of requests.

FORMAL INVITES - Watch Organizers upon request may receive a starter packet to review before the training. Digital neighbor invites are available upon request. These invitations should be distributed to the homes within the neighborhood the Watch is being established. If there is a home or resident you are concerned with inviting, ask your Watch trainer how to proceed.

CONFIRM & REMIND - Within 48-72 hours before the training, remind the residents of the time and location for the training and confirm the number of attending residents with your Watch trainer. We require a minimum of 5 households to form a new Neighborhood Watch. If your Watch training attendance drops below 5, contact your Watch trainer to discuss rescheduling.

ATTEND & LEARN - All Neighbors wishing to participate in the Neighborhood Watch Group should attend the formal Watch training. The Watch training is a comprehensive overview of Portland's public safety system and resources. For additional Crime Prevention trainings, you can contact your Crime Prevention Team.

Neighborhood Watch Trainings

Neighborhood Watches begin with an initial meeting at which your Neighborhood Watch trainer from the Crime Prevention Program provides the needed materials to get started. Household members are provided a training agenda and supplemental materials. Once the training is complete the Watch Organizers are responsible for continuing the active involvement of the neighborhood. If at any time post-training you are in need of additional help or training you can contact your neighborhood Crime Prevention Team.



OFFICE OF
Community
& Civic Life

Crime Prevention
Program

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The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-4000, Relay: 711.

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City of Portland

Neighborhood Watch Training Agenda

Neighborhood Watch Training Goal

Our goal today is to equip and train the Neighborhood Watch Group with the skills to organize and support community partnerships to prevent crime, the fear of crime, and increase community resiliency in emergency situations.

Welcome/Intros: Why are you here? What do you hope to learn?

Neighborhood Watch: Mission & goals

Office of Community & Civic Life: Crime Prevention & what we do

Crime Prevention Coordinators: Who they are & what they do

Fill out & collect Questionnaires

Calling and reporting: Criminal & non-criminal

- Quick Resources Guide (Magnet)
- Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC)
 - Identify & report suspicious activity
 - Call-takers, call priority & dispatching
 - 7 Ws & CYMBOLS of reporting
- 9-1-1: When to call/text & how
- Non-Emergency: When to call & how
- Online Reporting: Crimes, livability & PDX Reporter
- Commendations & complaints

Questions/Break

Block Map: Examples & how-to

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED): DIY Packet

Bike Index & Project 529: Worksheet & how-to guide

Emergency Preparedness: Resources (Home Inventory, Fire & BEECN)

Closing: Follow-ups & updating block information

Training will help build understanding and goals of your Neighborhood Watch and Crime Prevention Team as well as what Crime Prevention does and their role in assisting Neighborhood Watch and the community.

Subjects to be covered in your training may go outside of the listed agenda items due to the needs of every individual Watch group. During your training you will be provided with a training packet that will help to supplement the materials being taught.

Watch Organizer duties include: Inviting and organizing block training/meetings, creating and distributing block maps, updating block maps (annually or quarterly recommended), and maintaining communications with the Crime Prevention Program.

Reporting Toolkit

Is it an immediate or life-threatening emergency?

YES

Dial 911 - Be prepared to provide information (i.e. location, suspect details, involved persons). Do not hang up until instructed to do so.

NO

Are you calling to report a crime or suspicious activity?

YES

Does the incident involve any of the following:

- Known suspect(s)
- Stolen vehicles
- Domestic violence
- Vehicular accidents
- Firearms
- Hit and runs
- RX Medication
- Require police presence

NO

NO

YES

Report online:
portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/

Call Portland Non-Emergency
at (503) 823-3333.

Are you reporting livability issues and violations (i.e. campsites, needles, potholes, illegal/abandoned vehicles)?

YES

NO

Go to pdxreporter.org and file a report (you will need a portlandoregon.gov account to login.)

Do you need help and/or training for your business, neighborhood or residence, but don't know where to start?

YES

To get more training and connect with your Crime Prevention Team go online to:
portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp

Your Crime Prevention Programs mission is to organize and support community partnerships to prevent crime and the fear of crime. You can also find online resources and training tools on the Office of Community & Civic Life, Crime Prevention Program website portlandoregon.gov/civic/76205.



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