

What is Neighborhood Watch?

The Cibola County Sheriff's Office's Neighborhood Watch program is the cornerstone of all crime prevention programs. It enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with The Cibola County Sheriff's Office to reduce burglaries and other neighborhood crimes. Its primary purpose is the protection of property, yours and your neighbors.

Most home burglaries occur during the day and early evening hours, when alert neighbors could spot the thieves and call the Sheriff's Office. Concerned citizens are doing just that. They are part of a Neighborhood Watch Program. Neighbors looking out for neighbors.

Neighborhood Watch crime prevention programs are a proven and effective means to substantially reduce not only the incidence of residential burglaries in a specific geographical area, but also the incidence of other crimes as well.

"A good neighbor is one of the most effective crime prevention tools ever invented."

Neighborhood Watch teaches you the steps that you can take to help protect your home. It also organizes a neighborhood group which can make crime prevention part of every person's daily routine, just by watching out for each other. Your job is to *report* suspicious activity to police. It is *their* job to handle the crooks!

The Cibola County Sheriff's Office continues to actively support the Neighborhood Watch Program. It is one vehicle by which we hope to conduct a sustained attack on crime through innovative crime prevention techniques.

It involves:

Neighbors getting to know each other and working in a program of mutual assistance; Start or join a Citizens Neighborhood Watch Program

Citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods, become a Neighborhood Watcher. If you see a crime or suspicious activity in your neighborhood, immediately report what you have seen to the Sheriff's Office.

Implementation of crime prevention techniques, such as home security, operation identification and others; Utilize crime prevention measures to make it much more difficult for criminals to perpetrate a crime in your community and at your home.

First get organized

The first step in starting a Neighborhood Watch is to contact the Cibola County Sheriff's Office and speak with Sgt. Chris Trujillo at (505) 876-2048.

Talk to Your Neighbors

- Determine the geographic area of your Neighborhood Watch. It should include only the homes on your street. It may include a cul-de-sac in the middle of your block, being that Cibola County is very rural, it may also include the streets on either side of yours.
- Canvass your neighborhood for interest. Discuss crime problems in your area and how neighbors working together can help to prevent crime
- **Be sure to mention that:**
 - Neighborhood Watch does not require frequent meetings
 - It does not ask that anyone take any personal risks to prevent crime.
 - Neighborhood Watch leaves the responsibility for apprehension of criminals where it belongs--with the Sheriff's Deputy's.

If your neighborhood is interested in the Neighborhood Watch Program you will need to schedule a date and time with the Sheriff's Office for your first meeting. Representatives from the Sheriff's Office will attend your first meeting.

- Plan the meeting far enough in advance to give everyone adequate notice.
- The meeting should be an informal and comfortable meeting. If possible, hold it in your home or a neighbor's home.
- Distribute the flyers announcing the meeting and it's location. As the meeting date approaches (two or three days before) remind people of the meeting.
- Do not be disappointed if everyone cannot attend. One hundred percent participation is desired, but is not a requirement for the program to work.
- The first Neighborhood Watch meeting is considered a working/organizational meeting. For this reason, we ask that no small children attend. Later meetings can be designed to focus on children, if the neighborhood desires.

Sheriff Johnny Valdez

Under Sheriff Tony Mace