

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE MY HOME SAFER?

Start by calling the Salem Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit to join Neighborhood Watch! Then, try the following:

- Lock all windows and doors.
- Place a snug-fitting 1" dowel in the track of your sliding doors or windows.
- Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Trim hedges to two feet in height to make your home more visible to others.
- Do not hide a spare key on the exterior of your home.
- Place exterior lighting at all corners of your home so the perimeter is well lit.
- Keep your porch light on at night. The average cost per month of keeping a 40-watt light bulb lit from dusk until dawn is \$1.16 and 96¢ if you use a 7-watt compact fluorescent bulb.
- Maintain a list of your property and valuables. Note any serial numbers and engrave items without identification with your Oregon driver license number. *Example:* OR1234567DL

Be a part of a positive partnership with the Salem Police Department.

RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Police, Fire or Medical Emergencies
911

Police Non-Emergency Line
503-588-6123

Drug Activity Tips Line
503-315-2566

Drug Activity Tips Online
www.cityofsalem.net/police

Graffiti Reporting Line
503-371-4264

Compliance Services Division
503-588-6471



**Salem Police Department
Community Response
Section
Crime Prevention Unit**

**555 Liberty St. SE, Room 130
Salem, Oregon 97301**

Make our community stronger by making it safer through

Neighborhood Watch

Take a stand against crime.

**Salem Police Department
Community Response Section
Crime Prevention Unit**



**Neighborhood Watch
503-588-6175**

What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a program designed to increase safety and improve the livability of your neighborhood through crime prevention and communication between neighbors — and between neighbors and police.

WHY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

- It works. Throughout the country, dramatic decreases in burglary and related crimes are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active Watch programs.
- Today's mobile society produces communities that are less personal. An empty house in a neighborhood where none of the neighbors know the owner is a primary target for burglary.
- Neighborhood Watch also helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns such as recreation for youth or park improvement projects.

HOW DOES A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP START?

Neighborhood Watch starts with any concerned resident — young or old, single or married, renter

or homeowner. Even the busiest people can start a Neighborhood Watch. The program can also be done by a block of businesses interested in increasing the safety of their customers and employees. You can start by getting the interest of your fellow neighbors to discuss the level of interest and possible neighborhood problems and concerns.

Next, contact the Salem Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit for a start-up packet. The packet will include a form for creating a participant list that will serve as a helpful phone tree when and if neighbors ever need to communicate with one another. Once the forms have been completed, the Crime Prevention Officer will meet with you and your neighbors for crime prevention training. You will learn about topics, such as home and personal safety and how to identify and report suspicious activity.

WHAT DOES A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP DO?

Neighborhood Watch is neighbors helping neighbors. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime, and simply helping one another maintain a safe neighborhood. Members meet their neighbors, learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activity that raises their suspicions to the police department. The key to the program is communication — neighbors talking to each other, learning each other's routines, and the like. Because neighbors, like you, are the ones who are going to know best when something *or someone* is out of place.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF A WATCH PROGRAM?

- **Neighborhood Meetings.** Get together with your neighbors on a regular basis. It's a good opportunity to keep your phone tree updated with current phone numbers and email addresses. The Salem Police Department can drop in and provide interesting presentations about other crime related topics.
- **Neighborhood Patrol.** Neighbors are encouraged to walk or drive through the area and alert police to crime or suspicious activity.
- **Communication.** Communication can be as simple as a flier or a quarterly newsletter that gives an update on neighborhood happenings. It can also be a quick conversation at the end of the driveway. Remember, keeping connected is the key. Ongoing communication makes it easier to work together on a neighborhood situation, such as unexpected flood waters or even a lost dog.
- **Special Events & National Night Out.** Create opportunities to host a special event or meeting to bring awareness to an issue in the neighborhood. Consider getting together to do a park cleanup, paint over graffiti, or plant a community garden. These are opportunities to get know one another while making a difference in the neighborhood.