

Neighborhood Watch

Mobile Patrol



Together we can make a difference!



2017

MISSION STATEMENT

The West Valley City Neighborhood Services Office strives to preserve, improve, and revitalize neighborhoods by helping residents access City services. An emphasis is placed on partnerships between residents, business owners, elected officials, Police and City employees to build and preserve clean, safe neighborhoods that reflect the diversity of the City's population.

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Neighborhood Watch is a group of residents who meet regularly to accomplish goals in their neighborhood. It is about neighbors getting to know one another and building a strong and united neighborhood. We all want to live in a friendly, safe, clean environment. Neighborhood Watch is one tool to help.



CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

1. A crime prevention program where neighbors "look out for each other."
2. A crime prevention program that encourages neighbor participants to get to know each other and their routines so that any out of place activity can be observed, recognized for what it is, reported, and investigated.
3. A crime prevention program that teaches participants techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home, in their vehicles, and in public places.
4. A crime prevention program which trains participants on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and sounds, evaluate them, and then how to properly report them.
5. A crime prevention program which teaches participants how to make their homes more secure, to properly identify their property, and how to "look out for each other."
6. A cohesive body of concerned, involved, neighbor participants addressing many issues that concern their area and the entire community.

Some Objectives of Neighborhood Watch

1. Maintain a cooperative system of surveillance over one another's property, children, etc.
2. Report suspicious activity, suspicious persons, or crimes in progress accurately and immediately to the police.
3. Mutually assist and encourage the attainment of home security surveys, crime target hardening procedures, property marking activities, comprehensive crime prevention awareness, and elimination of the opportunity for crime.
4. Maintain a continuing system for the dissemination of information and educational materials relative to self-protection and criminal awareness and adjust program emphasis in accordance with the most current information.
5. Encourage neighbors to report crimes and come forward as witnesses of criminal activity.
6. Assist and support victims of crime.
7. Help elderly or debilitated citizens and children protect themselves from becoming crime victims. Advocate and push for additional projects to protect these special groups of persons whenever necessary.

It will be important to identify some of your goals before you ask others to form a neighborhood watch.

Goals for improving your neighborhood may include:

- helping neighbors get to know each other by holding social events
- making physical improvements such as installing community signs
- holding regular neighborhood clean-ups
- reducing crime
- forming a mobile patrol
- organizing opinions to share with government representatives

The key to success in any neighborhood watch program are the participants' willingness to "LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER" and the ability of each individual participant to observe and recognize what is suspicious, and immediately reporting it.

The availability of an unlimited number of neighborhood watch participants on a 24 hour a day, seven days a week, tremendously multiplies the effectiveness of the West Valley City Police Department's effort to prevent crime.

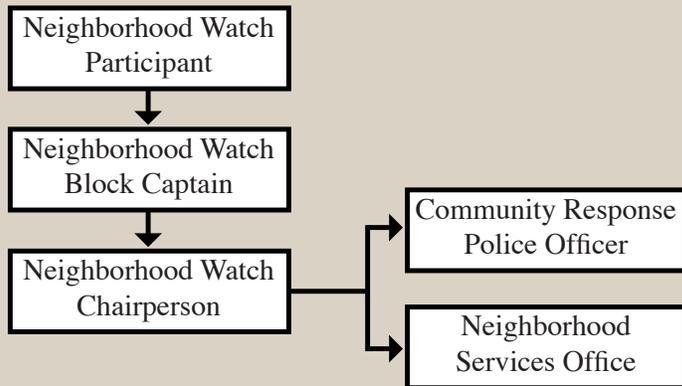
Observation takes many forms. From your home, a mobile home, apartment, or condo, determine your best observation point. From your automobile, you can observe both the road and other activities. Many people walk or jog as a daily routine, going to and from the store or work, or for their own physical fitness. Observation and recognition skills play a large part of your mutual protection. What ever your means of observation, use your head to determine if what you are observing is suspicious. Remember, observations are not only made by sight, but also from sounds and smells.

Recognition is of equal importance. Learn how to get a good description of the suspect, identify their vehicle, their method of operation and their activity. Recognize that when your neighbor is away on vacation, a stranger should not be coming in and out of their house. Recognize what is routine, and what is suspicious.

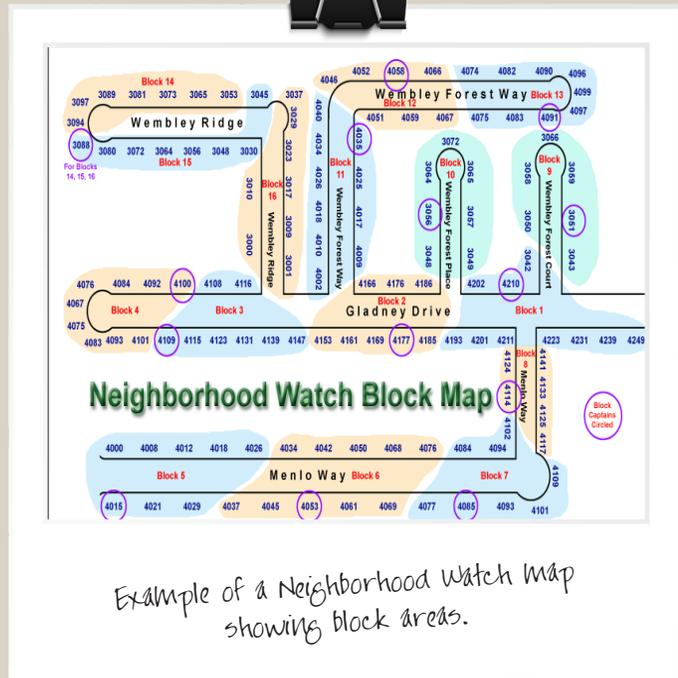
CHAPTER 2

HOW SHOULD WE BE ORGANIZED?

Neighborhood Watch is a volunteer community organization that is comprised of West Valley City residents that are concerned about keeping their community safe. It is suggested that your Neighborhood Watch area be organized as follows:



While the West Valley City acts as a resource and a partner in the Neighborhood Watch program, ultimately the program belongs to you. The success of failure of the program in reducing crime and bringing your neighborhood together depends solely on you and your involvement in your Neighborhood Watch area. Remember, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Get involved and make a difference in your neighborhood!



Your **Block Captain** has the following duties (examples):

- oversees the Neighborhood Watch program on your block
- distributes information received from your Neighborhood Watch Chairperson to each local member of your block
- collects and keeps Chairperson up to date with member information
- plans block parties and meetings
- assists Chairperson with running the Neighborhood Watch program in your area and keeps it active

Working with your Block Captain, the **Chairperson** has the following duties (examples):

- oversees the Neighborhood Watch program in your area
- organizes area meetings and activities
- distributes timely information through the Block Captains
- activates phone tree to notify area of emergencies
- keeps area maps and phone tree information up to date
- acts as liaison between your area and your Community Services Police Officer and the West Valley City Neighborhood Services Office



CHAPTER 3

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MOBILE PATROL?

A group of trained citizens who want to stop crime in their neighborhoods by being the “eyes and ears” of the West Valley City Police Department. Similar to the traditional Neighborhood Watch program, mobile patrol groups report any crime and suspicious activity to the Police and their neighbors. The difference between the programs is that mobile patrol groups are trained to be more proactive in their approach by driving through their neighborhoods looking for anything out of place that needs to be reported to the police. The purpose of citizen mobile patrol is to assist in deterring crime, report crimes and suspicious activity to the Police and educate their communities in good safety practices.

Successful efforts to combat crime requires the cooperative efforts of police and citizens. The police simply cannot be everywhere. For this reason, success in fighting crime is dependent on citizen cooperation and assistance. Many crimes might never be committed if citizens were more alert to suspicious activity and notified the police immediately.

Mobile Patrol kits will be made available through the Neighborhood Services Office. Materials will be checked out to registered groups and are expected to be returned if your program becomes inactive. The kit will include a storage box, car magnets, documentation log, flashlight, and flood light.

Patrol participants are REQUIRED to attend a training meeting once every 2 years.

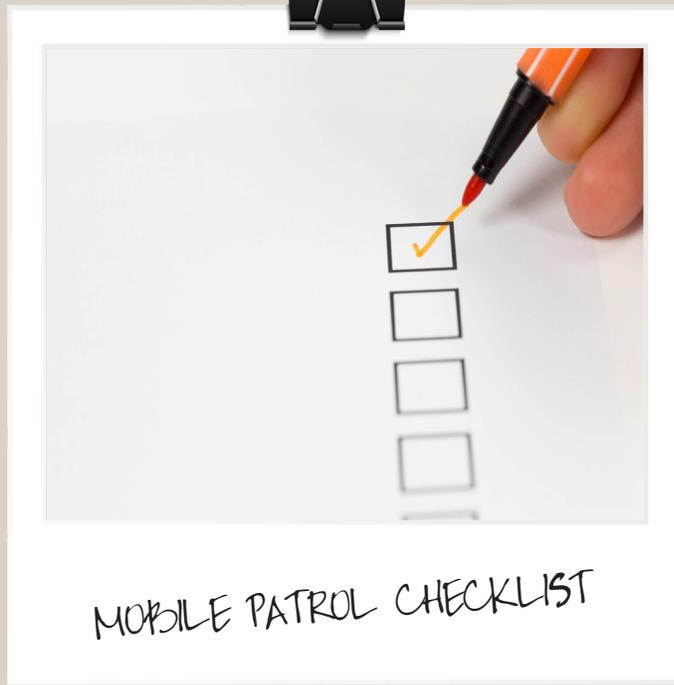
Some things to remember about mobile patrol members:

1. Participants must be at least 18 years of age.
2. Participants ALWAYS patrol in teams. NEVER ALONE.
3. Participants are required to attend training provided by West Valley City a minimum of

once every two years.

4. Participants do NOT have police authority.
5. Participants are responsible and liable for their own safety and actions at all times.
6. Participants should NOT leave their vehicle to confront suspects.
7. Participants can NOT represent themselves as employees of representatives of the Police or City.
8. Participants should NOT carry or use weapons such as firearms, nightsticks, mace, clubs, etc.
9. Participants can NOT consume ANY alcoholic beverage eight hours prior to or during their patrol shift
10. Participants should...

ALWAYS CONSIDER THEIR OWN PERSONAL SAFETY AS THE FIRST PRIORITY!



NEVER PATROL ALONE

- Plan to patrol with someone.
- At least one person on patrol must be trained.
- Everyone in a vehicle on patrol must be at least 18 years old, NO MINORS
- Pick up the “Mobile Patrol Kit”
- **CALL DISPATCH AT (801) 840-4000**
Give them your name, a description and the license plate number of the vehicle being used for patrol, the time you will be out, and the area of your patrol.
- While on patrol document, document, document!
 - **Mobile Patrol Log** - write a brief summary of your time on patrol so the next team of patrollers are aware of any unusual activity or need to know information.
 - **Mobile Patrol Observation Notes** - document any suspicious persons or vehicles. It is also helpful to have this information written down when you are calling the Police.
 - **House Activity Log** - document suspicious behavior taken place at a specific home of concern.
- After your shift on patrol, return your neighborhood kit to the coordinator or make it available for the next patrollers.





CHAPTER 4

TOP 10 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PARTICIPANT DUTIES

1. Learn your neighbor's names, including all occupants of their residence. Be able to recognize them and their vehicles without any hesitation.
2. Attend all Neighborhood Watch meetings.
3. Properly identify all personal property using the included personal property record or a computer inventory program, engraving a number identifiable to you onto your property, and/or by creating a videotape record of your valuables.
4. Keep doors and windows locked as well as garage doors down at all times, even when you are home.
5. Become a good witness by getting an accurate description of a suspect or a vehicle. Practice writing down descriptions from memory so when the time comes to actually report an incident, you will be prepared.
6. Keep an eye on your neighbor's homes and report any suspicious activities to the police. Write down suspect and vehicle descriptions so that nothing is forgotten. Do not delay your reporting or think that someone else will. A few minutes delay may make the difference between catching a criminal and them getting away.
7. Teach children respect for the law. Involve them in crime prevention activities and make them feel a part of your Neighborhood Watch group. Teach them to be safe at home and away.
8. Remember that you are the "EYES AND EARS" of your neighborhood. It is your responsibility to report crime and to be a good witness. Never take the law into your own hands or risk personal safety by trying to stop a crime in progress. Watch and report!
9. When you plan to leave for any length of time, arrange to have your mail and newspapers picked up or put on temporary hold. Leave timers on your lights and TV or radio. Make your home appear lived in whenever you are away. Call dispatch and request extra patrols by your house while you are away. Let your Neighborhood Watch Block Captain know.
10. Get involved! Look out for each other. Neighborhood Watch is your program and will only be as good as you and your neighbors make it. By being a good witness and an active participant in Neighborhood Watch, you will truly make a difference in your neighborhood.

CHAPTER 5

HOW TO GET STARTED TODAY

You have taken the first step by becoming part of an organized Neighborhood Watch. The success of your group will now depend on your involvement and continued support. Do not procrastinate getting involved. Here is a list of things that you can do right now:

Secure your home. Look around the outside of your home, paying close attention to windows and doors. Where would you get in if you were locked out? Where would you break in if you were a criminal? Same answer? Strengthen weak areas first. Make sure that doors and windows lock. Ensure that dead bolts and door locks are anchored deep enough, penetrating deep into the door frame. Make certain that windows and sliding doors have wooden dowels placed into the tracks, especially those on the main level of basement. Train your family on how to remove the dowels and open the windows from the inside in case of fire. Make sure your family is locking windows and doors, even when at home.

Turn on porch and yard lights and leave them on all night. Contrary to urban myth, this will not increase your electricity bill dramatically when using regular wattage bulbs, but WILL increase the security of your home and neighborhood dramatically. Use energy efficient bulbs for greater cost savings. Criminals hate to be seen. Install motion detectors lights to illuminate all possible points of entry into your home and to keep any cars, boats, sheds, etc. Illuminated as well.

Do not leave anything of value in your car. It only takes a few seconds for a criminal to burglarize your car. But most burglars are criminals of opportunity. If there is nothing to steal, the burglar will move on. This applies to when you are parking at work, a store, or in your home driveway. Take anything of value with you, or at the very least, secure valuables in the trunk where they will be out of sight.

Secure your garage. Remember to close your garage door ANYTIME you are not in the garage. This means at night as well as when you are in your yard doing yard work or even just running to the store for a few minutes. A passing burglar can remove bicycles, skis, golf bags, power equipment, and other items in a flash. They may also identify items they want to come back for later. Additionally, do not leave these items laying on the lawn or unsecured outside at ANY time.

Make certain that your house number are clearly visible. Police and emergency responders will need to find your address quickly in the event of an emergency. Make house numbers visible on your house or mailbox. Numbers painted on the curb are often difficult to see at night and during inclement weather.

Operation Identification. Nationally recognized by law enforcement as a citizen's burglary prevention program for use in the home, the program allows law enforcement to detect, identify, and return stolen or lost property to its rightful owner. Use the Operation ID form to document all property such as televisions, radios, stereos, toys, bicycles, video games, tools, lawn mowers, edgers, etc. Make sure the make and serial numbers are listed. Items that do not have serial numbers from their manufacturer should have unique personal identification etched into them. Add an added level of documentation by taking photographs of everything, especially smaller items such as jewelry.





CHAPTER 6 WHEN TO CALL THE POLICE

If you know that a crime is occurring, or suspect that something suspicious or dangerous is going on, if potential trouble exists, or if someone has been hurt, do the following:

- Determine whether or not the situation is an emergency. An emergency requires an immediate response from the police department or fire/medical personnel. **IMMEDIATELY CALL 9 1 1**
- If the situation is not an emergency, do not tie up the 9 1 1 telephone system. Call dispatch directly at (801) 840-4000. If you are in doubt, don't bother trying to figure it out. Just dial 9 1 1.

When you first dial 9 1 1 or dispatch directly, be prepared to give the operator:

- Your name and phone number
- **WHAT** is happening? Be as specific as possible. Try to answer the dispatcher's questions as best you can. If you do not know the answer, tell the dispatcher that you do not know.
- **WHEN** did it happen? Is this situation occurring now? Is something about to happen? How long ago did it occur?
- **WHERE** is it happening? Give specific address or directions.
- **WHO** is involved? Give descriptions of the victims and the suspects as accurately as you can. Try to write down and remember as many details as you can.

Remember that the dispatcher is using a computer, so even though they continue talking to you on the phone, help is being notified simultaneously. Be patient with the dispatcher and try to answer all of the dispatcher's questions as best you can, even if you do not understand the relevance of the question at the time. As a member of Neighborhood Watch, you are the **EYES** and **EARS** of the Police Department. By making the effort to report criminal activity correctly, you are making your community a safer place. If it looks out of place and the situations feels wrong, chances are something **IS** wrong.



Communicating effectively with the Police Department is important.

- Be credible with police by stating the truth in a clear, concise way.
- VECC prioritizes calls. Response varies according to situation. Police may personally contact you, drive through your area, or take a report via telephone.
- You can request personal contact with police. But this may take many hours depending on the officers work load.
- **DO NOT INTERFERE** with police when on the scene of an incident, unless they address you first. You can say, "I am with neighborhood watch mobile patrol and I'll be waiting over there if you need to speak with me."
- Ask for case numbers from the officer at the scene or from a telephonic officer. You can then follow up later to find out if the case has been solved. It is helpful to have the case number when you have additional information for the case.

CHAPTER 7

BEING MORE OBSERVANT

Taking an active role in looking out for each other is the key to making Neighborhood Watch successful in your neighborhood. You know your neighborhood, what is normal, what belongs and what does not, as well as what is suspicious. Realize that although you may know your neighborhood, being observant in your neighborhood takes practice and work. We are frequently too occupied with getting somewhere quickly, talking on the cell phone, or taking care of kids to be observant while driving or walking through your neighborhood. Make it a point to become more observant and more aware of what is going on in your own neighborhood. Practice the pointers listed on this page and learn to always be observant.

Know who and what belongs at each house in your neighborhood. Know the hours that your neighbors work, if they have any children, as well as what cars they drive. Know what is regularly occurring in your neighborhood and easily become suspicious if something does not seem to fit.

Be prepared. Keep a good flashlight, and even a pair of binoculars handy. Keep a note pad and pen close by for writing down notes, plate numbers, and suspect descriptions. Keep your car equipped with these items so you will have them when you need them. Never operate your car and try to write down information, always pull over.

Become observant when out for a walk or jog. Make a habit of carrying your cell phone with you. Practice memorizing your neighborhood's layout and be alert to anything that seems unusual or out of place. If someone is out in the yard, stop and get to know them. Keep a note pad and pen with you.

Keep an eye on the neighborhood when at home. Do not hibernate in your home, only noticing the outside world when leaving for work, school, the store, etc. Take an occasional peak out the windows throughout the day and evening. If you get up during the night, take a moment to glance outside and make sure that all is well.

Trust your judgment. By practicing being more observant and by knowing what is normal for your neighborhood, you will know when something is suspicious or does not belong. When your instinct tells you that something is wrong, trust your instinct and do not hesitate to call the police and report it immediately.

Become observant when you are driving through your neighborhood. Vary your route to work, the store, the kids' school each time you drive so you are always aware of any changes in your area.

Observe crimes and suspicious circumstances as secretly as possible. You are the EYES AND EARS of the neighborhood, so contact police and be a good witness.





CHAPTER 8 BEING A GOOD WITNESS

Suspect Identification

As a Neighborhood Watch member, it is imperative that you become a good witness. Being able to provide police with an accurate description of a suspect is often times one of the most crucial things that a witness can do. A good suspect description will be invaluable information throughout any police investigation, helping police to capture the criminal initially to ultimately getting a conviction in court.

The most important features to identify are gender, race, height, weight, appropriate age, hair color, eye color, clothing, and any scars, marks or tattoos. Work from the top to bottom, making mental notes before writing them down. Anything unique to that person that may set them apart within the general populous is important.

Gender	Male
Race	Caucasian
Age	Approximately 35
Height	Between 5'8" and 5'10"
Build	Stocky
Complexion	Pale with freckles
Hair	Thick long blond hair, balding, with sideburns and a beard
Unique traits	Wearing eyeglasses with a tattoo on his right arm
Clothing	Pink baseball cap, no coat, dark pants, white sneakers (top - down)
Direction of travel	Last seen at 2500 Pine Street heading towards Lincoln Park



Vehicle Identification

Being able to provide police with an accurate vehicle description could make the difference between a criminal getting away or being apprehended. A description like, "They are in a four door white car" is a good start, but will likely not provide police with enough information to find the bad guys. Familiarize yourself with the description characteristics included on the form included in this handbook. Practice identifying cars when you are out and about. Most cars have the make and model printed somewhere near the trunk area. While you are driving to and from work, learn the different types and body styles of the cars you see so that you can be an expert witness when it counts.

Color	Black
Year	Late model
Make	BMW
Body Type	Two door compact convertible
License Plate	UTAH ABC 123
Unique Traits	Large dent on the drivers door
Direction of travel	Moving or parked on 2700 West headed north towards 3500 South

License Plate Identification

The safety of your neighborhood may depend on your ability to memorize the license plate of any suspicious vehicle and to write it down exactly as you observed it.

In fact, in many suspicious vehicle calls when no license plate is given to the police, the perpetrator often gets away. On the other hand, in nearly all crimes where a correct license plate was given to police, the suspect is apprehended. A license plate number, correctly written down and passed on to police, is often the key to solving many crimes. With the multitude of license plate designs used by the fifty states, as well as Canadian provinces and Mexican states, it is also vital that you note the state the plate is from. If you are unable to tell that state it is from, at least remember the colors and overall design of the plate.

CHAPTER 9

OBSERVATION EXAMPLES

ACTIVITY: Slow moving vehicles.

COULD BE: Certain cars that seem to be circling the block repetitively or following an aimless course, particularly without lights in the evening, could be driven by a person casing houses for burglary attempts or by someone waiting for a drug pickup. Possible sex offenders could also exhibit this behavior. Pay close attention if the car is seen around schools, parks, or playgrounds.

ACTIVITY: Parked vehicles that are occupied.

COULD BE: Lookouts for burglaries or robberies in progress may be sitting in parked cars, pretending sometimes to be a young couple in love. An occupied car waiting in front of a house where no one is home or a business that is clearly closed could be the getaway car for a burglary in progress.

ACTIVITY: Abandoned vehicles.

COULD BE: This may be a stolen car.

ACTIVITY: Stranger walking along the side yard of a house or going into the backyard.

COULD BE: Unless it is an acquaintance, relative, or legitimate employee doing a check of utilities or repairs to the house, it is very likely that this person is a burglar or trespasser.

ACTIVITY: Excessive traffic, people, and cars at a certain residence.

COULD BE: This activity is not necessarily suspicious unless it happens on a daily or regular basis, especially late at night or during unusual hours. A legitimate home-based business may have some traffic, but if it seems excessive, the residents could be engaging in drug trafficking, prostitution, or fencing of stolen goods.

ACTIVITY: Excessive personal property stored in cars or garages.

COULD BE: Unless the person is running a garage sale, a large accumulation of property represents stolen goods. Especially notice if there are several of the same type of item, such as four televisions in the garage.

ACTIVITY: Someone going door-to-door in a residential area.

COULD BE: Young children selling cookies or legitimate solicitors may have a reason to knock on neighbor's doors. But if someone seems to be randomly going up to doorways, it could be a burglar or a person who is part of a burglary team. Pay particular attention if one person goes around the side of the house while the other stays at the front door.

ACTIVITY: Forcible entry to a business, house, or car.

COULD BE: This person could have forgotten his/her keys or he/she could be trying to steal something.

ACTIVITY: Unusual noises and other activity.

COULD BE: Gunshots, screaming, sounds of combat or excessive barking dogs, or someone's being forced into a car, house, or business are reasons to call law enforcement immediately.

ACTIVITY: Waiting or loitering in front of a home or business if the business is closed or the house is unoccupied.

COULD BE: Possible burglary suspects.



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I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives.
I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.
~ Abraham Lincoln

Neighborhood Watch
Mobile Patrol

