

Serving Proudly Since 1857



Cache County Sheriff's Office
1225 W Valley View Logan, UT



Neighborhood Watch

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program based on the concept of cooperation between citizens and law enforcement, and is designed to help citizens be the eyes and ears in their community for law enforcement. In short, it is neighbors watching out for neighbors to establish control of their neighborhoods in order to reduce crime rates and increase the quality of life.

The purpose of Neighborhood Watch is to make individuals aware of the steps they can take to make their homes more secure, to show citizens how they can work together with neighbors to protect their entire neighborhood, and to make the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies more effective in the fight against crime through citizen involvement and participation. It focuses on observation and awareness as a means of preventing crime.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Everyone can be a part of Neighborhood Watch – children and adults alike. We all have a responsibility to make our homes and neighborhoods a safe place to live.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

- To create a greater sense of security, well-being, and a reduction of fear of crime because you and your neighbors will **LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER**.
- To reduce the risk of being a victim of crime.
- To get to know your neighbors and make new friends.
- To have greater access to criminal activity information – trends in your specific area.
- To address issues of mutual interest by getting together with your neighbors on a regular basis.

WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY?

Crime prevention is a way of life that offers greater security and peace of mind. You have a responsibility as a homeowner to do what you can to protect your home and family from being victimized. You have a responsibility as a neighbor to watch out for your neighbors – they will do the same for you.

Help out neighbors by watching their homes when they are away on vacation or just at work. Maintain a lived-in look to neighbors' residences by picking up newspapers and mail; parking your car in their driveway, and putting garbage cans out on the day it is normally collected. By maintaining a lived-in appearance to homes, you and your neighbors are working together to prevent criminal activity in your area.

Work together for the good of your neighborhood. The Sheriff's Office cannot function to its fullest potential without the assistance of concerned, responsible citizens. We need to work together to keep your neighborhoods safe.

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GETTING INVOLVED IN **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH** **~ THINGS YOU CAN DO ~**

- Know your neighbors. Know their families, schedules, routines, etc.
- Report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.
 - Safety comes first!
 - Never place yourself or others in harm's way in order to gain information.
 - Stay in a safe location.
 - Report out of the ordinary activities, people, and vehicles.
 - Report illegal activities.
 - Report unusual events or incidents.
 - Report dangerous situations.
- Be observant and aware – if you observe something suspicious:
 - Begin with the basics – gender, race, age, # of individuals involved.
 - Add specifics – height, weight, clothing, hair and eye color, facial hair.
 - Broaden your perspective – what other events were occurring, who else was affected, what was the overall situation.
 - Add the details – vehicles involved, witnesses, location, direction of travel, outcome of incident.
- Trust your judgment. Do not hesitate – call law enforcement immediately.
- Take good notes while waiting for the Sheriff's Office to arrive.
 - Write down your observations as soon as possible after the event.
 - Record the date and time.
- Have a good defense – put barriers between you, your home, and criminal opportunity.
 - Practice basic personal safety measures and always be aware of your surroundings, whether at home or away.
 - Maximize your home security by surveying and correcting security weaknesses in your residence. Do a target hardening assessment.

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TARGET HARDENING

Most crimes are crimes of opportunity. If your home and vehicles are properly secured, the ease of opportunity to commit a crime is reduced or eliminated completely and the criminal will move on to another target.

Doors and Locks

- Exterior doors should be metal or solid wood and have strong door hinges.
- All exterior doors and doors leading into the house from an attached garage should have strong, reliable deadbolt locks with a minimum 1" throw. Consider deadbolts with reinforced strike plates and extra long mounting screws to anchor the lock.
- It is recommended that you use double cylinder deadbolts (key inside and outside) on doors within 42" of a window.
- Door areas should be well lighted. Doors should have a wide-angle viewer (peephole) so you can see who is outside without opening the door.
- Make sure doors are mounted correctly to prevent being spread apart.
- Install vertical bolts or secure with metal or other sturdy rod in the tracks of sliding glass doors.
- Always lock all doors when you leave the house, including doors leading into the house from an attached garage.
- Always lock your vehicle.

Windows

- Impact resistant glass should be used on all basement windows and windows within 42" of doors.
- Window locks or bars may be used to increase security, especially on all windows that are accessible from the ground. Install vertical bolts or secure with metal or other sturdy rod in the tracks of windows.
- Use window coverings such as curtains or blinds to decrease visibility into your home.
 - If using blinds, make sure the blinds are closed in the right direction to prevent visibility into your home (basement = blinds turned up, upstairs = blinds turned down).
- Always lock all windows when you leave the house.

Lighting

- Use automatic timers for lights all the time, not just when you are on vacation.
- Install lighting around doors, porches, windows, garage, and all other points of entry.
- Consider motion detectors, especially in high priority areas (entrances, outbuildings).
- Illuminate the house and grounds.
- Increase visibility and eliminate hiding places.

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TARGET HARDENING CONT.

Appearance

- Direct visitors by means of fences, walkways, and shrubs.
- Plant thorny bushes around windows to make illegal entry more difficult.
- Trim shrubs and trees that could conceal criminals.
- Cut back tree limbs that might allow thieves to climb into windows.
- Use landscaping to provide maximum visibility to and from the house.

Garage

- Always lock the house door leading from an attached garage just in case your garage is breached (keypad code is obtained, garage broken into, etc.).
- Install blinds in garage windows and keep them closed.
- Always park your cars in the garage with the garage door shut.
- Install automatic openers that will allow you to stay in your car until safely parked in the garage.
- Lock automatic garage door openers while you are away for an extended period of time.

Alarms

- You can contract with a reputable alarm company.
- Use audible on-site alarms and/or flashing lights to attract attention.
- Post alarm signs on the property and stickers on the windows.
- Make sure your alarm is monitored 24 hours a day.

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GENERAL SAFETY AND VACATION TIPS

- When you aren't home make it look as though somebody's there.
 - Have a trusted neighbor or friend do the following while you're away:
 - Pick up the mail and packages.
 - Pick up newspapers if you don't have a temporary cancellation in place.
 - Take the garbage can out on the scheduled day and bring in the can after the garbage has been collected.
 - Mow the lawn or shovel the sidewalks and driveway (depending on the time of year).
 - Have a neighbor park their vehicle in your driveway periodically.
- Never let people know when your home will be empty. Don't let your children spread the word about your vacation. Keep it low-key and only tell those that need to know when you'll be away.
- Avoid advertising your expensive purchases.
- Do not let burglars use your spare key. Don't hide it under a mat, a rock, or the porch. Do not provide copies to service people.
- Make a list of your property (video or paper). Engrave valuables with your driver's license number. Keep the list off-site.
- Lock up your tools and your shed and/or garage.
- Consider getting a dog.

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HOW TO COPE WITH SOLICITORS AT YOUR DOOR

- Put up a No Soliciting sign by your front door.
- Check through a peephole or window before opening your door to anyone. If you don't know who the visitor is, why answer the door in the first place?
- If you have a screen or storm door, use it as a barrier and keep it locked. You can speak to people through the screen door without ever opening it and allowing unwanted visitors into your home.
- Be firm, although it may feel impolite to say no.
- Consider carefully before inviting solicitors into your home. It's much more difficult to rid yourself of them once they are inside; it's also potentially very dangerous.
- Decide if you want to listen to their spiel. If you do, have them give it on your front porch – don't invite them into your home. Realize once you listen, it's once again harder to say no.
- Have a standard speech to turn away solicitors. For example, "I have my own charities that I give to, thank you very much," "We have a family policy not to purchase anything from solicitors," "I have my own spiritual beliefs," or "I don't sign petitions without consideration" or simply say "No thanks, I'm not interested. Have a nice day."
- Thank them and say you must go. Then close the door.
- If they persist, contact law enforcement. Most solicitors do not have a business license that allows them to sell door to door.

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

FOR EMERGENCIES – DIAL 911

- ▶ Cache County Sheriff's Office (435) 755-1000
- ▶ Cache County Fire Department (435) 755-1670
- ▶ Logan City Fire Department (435) 716-9500
- ▶ Tip-a-Cop (435) 755-1100
- ▶ Dispatch/Animal Control (435) 716-9400
- ▶ Doctor _____ (435) _____
- ▶ Poison Control (800) 222-1222
- ▶ Emergency Contact _____ (435) _____

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Instructions: Cut out and place near all phone extensions in your home.