



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

*AN IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIP TO PREVENT CRIMES IN THE COMMUNITY*

Laguna Niguel Police Services encourages residents to participate in the Neighborhood Watch program designed to help prevent and reduce crime through education and increased communication with law enforcement. This program is a cooperative effort between interested citizens and Police Services striving to improve the quality of life in both your immediate neighborhood and overall community.

## Neighborhood Watch involves:

- Neighbors getting to know each other, taking time to care about each other, and working together in a program of mutual assistance and acting as extra “eyes & ears” for law enforcement.
- Residents being trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhood.
- Crime prevention strategies and safety tips being implemented by entire neighborhoods.

## Why form or join a Neighborhood Watch group?

- There can't be a deputy on every street, so citizen involvement is essential to combat crime.
- You and your fellow neighbors are the ones who really know what is going on in your neighborhood. By cooperating with each other and law enforcement, you can help fight crime in the most effective way - before it begins!
- Neighborhood Watch members place stickers in their windows and post Neighborhood Watch signs on streets, warning criminals that they are in an active Neighborhood Watch community. This demonstrates the community has taken it one step further to educate themselves on crime prevention principles and safety, and to send the message that “neighbors are watching out for each other.”
- Learn effective crime prevention techniques and receive training on a variety of topics including:
  - Home Security
  - Vehicle Security
  - Identity Theft
  - Child Safety
  - Senior Safety
  - Internet Safety
  - Emergency Preparedness
  - Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

## How do you start a Neighborhood Watch group?

- A motivated individual, a few concerned residents, or a community organization can spearhead the efforts to discuss the needs and level of interest to establish a Neighborhood Watch group. Often times, a recent incident or an on-going neighborhood problem brings a group of residents together who are ready to form an action plan to address that problem.
- Contact **Crime Prevention Specialist Michelle Conlin at (949) 362-4365 or by e-mail at [mconlin@ocsheriff.gov](mailto:mconlin@ocsheriff.gov)** about the organization of the initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- The Crime Prevention Specialist will assess the group's level of interest and assist residents through education about ways to respond to any problems in a cohesive and effective way.
- A Neighborhood Watch Block Captain(s) is selected who will be responsible for relaying information to the rest of the group. Spread the word and recruit new members and always keep contact information current and easily accessible.
- After the second or follow-up group meeting, selecting the site(s) for the installation of the official Neighborhood Watch sign(s) which will be coordinated by the Crime Prevention Specialist and approved by the Public Works Supervisor of Laguna Niguel.
- Keep the group active by frequent communications within the group and with law enforcement.

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