

**Partnering with neighborhoods
for a safer community**



Neighborhood Watch

▶ Neighbor Summary

What you need to know

- What is Neighborhood Watch?
- Benefits of the program.
- Why Neighborhood Watch works.
- What to watch for.

We Watch Out for Each Other!

Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

The seven most important benefits of the program are:

1. Creates a greater sense of security, well-being, and reduction in fear of crime.
2. Reduces the risk of being a crime victim. You learn prevention measures that benefit you personally and also the neighborhood as a whole.
3. You will learn what to watch for and how to report suspicious behavior.
4. Getting to know your neighbors is a benefit to all. You will learn how to detect when something is unusual at a neighbor's home.
5. Greater access to criminal activity information.
6. Posting of Neighborhood Watch signs on the street and decals in your windows deters crime in your neighborhood.
7. Helps address issues of mutual interest by getting together with your neighbors.





Neighborhood Watch is:

- ◆ Learning about the people and activity patterns on your block, and how to recognize suspicious individuals, vehicles, and out-of-place behavior.
- ◆ Making the commitment with your neighbors to report suspicious activities to the police.
- ◆ Making your home as secure as possible against intruders.
- ◆ Marking and photographing all your valuables to reduce the likelihood of theft and to increase the chances of having stolen property returned to you.
- ◆ Establishing an ongoing communication network to discuss ways of mutually working together for the betterment of your block, your neighborhood, and the community.

These components form the basis of the Neighborhood Watch Program. Individually, each aspect will help to make your block safer. By implementing all five will help you achieve maximum protection and security against neighborhood crime.

Share this information with your neighbors. Remember, the more familiar you are with each other and crime prevention techniques, the safer your block will be.

Remember, the more information you share with each other, the better protected you will be. The more you know about the activities on your block, the better your chances of preventing a crime in your neighborhood.



► Why Neighborhood Watch Works

Neighborhood Watch programs work because of the willingness of neighbors to watch out for each other. It is the ability of each individual participant to observe and recognize what is suspicious and then immediately report it. This helps improve the odds of detecting crime and suspicious situations in your neighborhood.



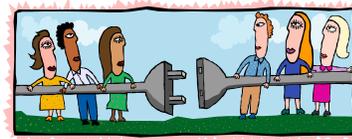
Observation takes many forms. From your home, apartment, or condo you can determine your best observations points. From your automobile, truck or van you can observe both the road and other activities. Many people walk or job as a daily routine and are aware of the normal surroundings on their path. Observation and recognition skills play a large part of your mutual protection. Whatever your means of observation, use your head and common sense to determine if what you are observing is of a suspicious nature.

Recognition is important as well. Learn how to get a good description of the suspect, identify their vehicle, and their activity. Be aware when your neighbor is away on vacation, a stranger should not be coming in and out of their house.

Time is critical in apprehension. When you see or hear something suspicious, call your police department immediately.



Work as a team to make your Neighborhood Watch Program work for you.



Recognizing Suspicious Activity

BE ALERT. Anything that seems slightly “out of place” or is occurring at an unusual time of day could be criminal activity.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND A PERSON COMMITTING A CRIME OR WHEN INVESTIGATING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY. Call the police department immediately, and do not worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove to be unfounded. Law enforcement officers would rather investigate than be called when it is too late.

The following incidents **MAY** indicate possible criminal activity and should be reported:

- Continuous repair operations at a non-business location (stolen property being altered);
- Open or broken doors and windows at a closed business or unoccupied residence (burglary or vandalism);
- Unusual noises, such as gunshots, screaming, or dogs barking continuously (burglary, assault, etc.);
- Sound of breaking glass (burglary or vandalism);
- A person exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms (person may be injured, under the influence of drugs, or otherwise needing medical attention).

Time and accuracy are critical in reporting crime or suspicious events. Use your law enforcement agency’s emergency number to report life-threatening incidents or a crime in progress, and use the non-emergency number for crimes that have already occurred. Your call could save a life, prevent an injury, or stop a crime. The information you provide will be kept confidential. You do not need to give your name, although this is often helpful.

Suspicious Persons

Obviously, not every stranger who comes into a neighborhood is a criminal. Legitimate door-to-door sales and repair people appear in residential areas frequently. Occa-



Trust your instincts

sionally, however, criminals disguise themselves as these workers; therefore, it is important to be alert to the activities of all nonresidents. Law enforcement officials *should* be called to investigate persons in the following circumstances who may be suspects in the crimes indicated:

- Going door to door in a residential area, especially if one or more goes to rear of residence or loiters in front of an unoccupied house or closed business (burglary);
- Forcing entrance or entering an unoccupied house (burglary, theft, or trespassing);
- Running, especially if carrying something of value or carrying unwrapped property at an unusual hour (fleeing the scene of a crime);
- Heavy traffic to and from a residence, particularly if it occurs on a daily basis (drug dealing, vice or fence operation);
- Screaming (rape or assault);

Suspicious Vehicles

Vehicles in the following situations MAY be involved in crimes and should be reported to authorities:

- Slow moving, without lights, following aimless course in any location, including residential streets, schools, and playgrounds (burglar, drug pusher, or sex offender);
- Parked or occupied, containing one or more persons, especially at an unusual hour (lookouts for a burglary or robbery);
- Parked by a business or unoccupied residence, being loaded with valuables (burglary or theft);
- Abandoned in your neighborhood (stolen car);
- Containing weapons (criminal activity);
- Someone, especially a female or juvenile, being forced into a vehicle (kidnapping, assault, or attempted rape);
- Business transactions taking place in it, especially around schools or parks (sale of stolen items or drugs);



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Describing and Reporting of Events, Vehicles and Persons

Practicing to develop skill in providing quick, accurate descriptions is an excellent NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH meeting activity. In attempting to describe events, vehicles, or persons, write down the details of what you have observed while they are still fresh in your mind, so your descriptions to law enforcement officials will be as accurate as possible.

Describing Events

When describing events write down:

- *What* happened;
- *When* it happened;
- *Where* it occurred (note the nearest cross street, home address, or landmark in relationship to the event);
- *Whether injuries* are involved (be prepared to report visible or suspected personal injury and be as specific as possible—this could save a life!);
- *Whether weapons* are involved (this information, whether observed or suspected, is vital to responding officers).

Describing Vehicles

When describing vehicles, write down:

- Vehicle license number and state, make and type of vehicle, color, and approximate age;
- Special designs or unusual features, such as vinyl top, mag wheels, body damage, pinstripes, etc.;
- Direction of travel.



Describing Persons

In preparing descriptions of persons, it is important to write down the following:

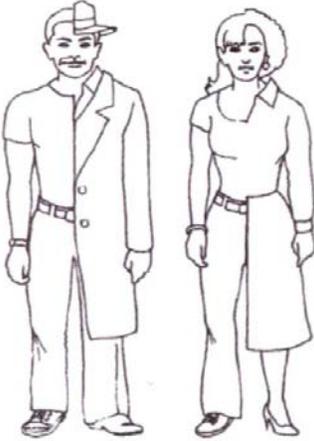
- Sex
- Race (complexion, nationality)
- Hair (Color & Length)
- Age
- Height (from eye level measured against your height)
- Weight - build, posture, disabilities
- Hair (Color & Length)
- Eyes (Color, glasses)
- Facial Hair (beard, mustache)
- Clothing (Shirt, coat, jacket, necktie, scarf, pants, skirt)
- Hat
- Voice Characteristics
- Accessories (Carrying a bag, backpack, gloves, shoes)
- Weapon (Knife, club, gun)
- Direction of Travel

The next page can be used as a guide in helping you remember a certain event. Remain aware and stay as calm as possible.

Good Descriptions help law enforcement!

Suspect Description

Remember to remain calm and aware of everything around you. Observe the suspects as closely as possible. Try not to focus on any weapon. Call police only when it is safe to do so, identify your situation, location, name phone number, and wait for them to arrive. Utilize this sheet to record the incident to the best of your ability.

Sex	Speech Pattern	Scars	Weapons	Bait Money Serial #
Hair				Clothing Worn
Eyes				Hat
Race				Facial Hair
Age				Coat
Height				Pants
Weight				Shoes
Vehicle Description				What suspect said
Additional Remarks				

This form is designed to assist you in remembering the appearance of a suspect. Start at the suspect's head and use the diagram to guide you. Complete this alone. Do not discuss what you remember with others. The idea is to record what you remember, not to form an agreement with other witnesses.



Woodbury Public Safety
 2100 Radio Drive
 Woodbury, MN 55125
 651-714-6400 Phone
 651-714-3709 Fax

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Operation Identification *What is Operation Identification*

Operation Identification is a citizen's burglary prevention program for use in homes and business. The Operation ID program involves the marking of property with an identifying number as a means of discouraging burglary and theft. In communities where it has been properly implemented, Operation Identification has shown dramatic results in its ability to reduce burglaries.

The Operation ID program has two parts.

First: Mark your valuables with a number as designated by Woodbury Police so that your property can be easily traced and identified as yours.

Second: Display a sticker which tells would-be burglars that your property has been marked.

What Makes Operation Identification So Effective

Marked property is difficult for a burglar to dispose of or re-sell. It can be traced to the rightful owner with relative ease. If the burglar is caught with marked property, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.

How to Participate

To participate in Operation Identification call the Woodbury Police Department and ask about borrowing an electric engraving tool. If they have one available, it can be picked up at the front counter at either the main police station. There is no charge to use the engraver, however it must be returned within forty-eight hours. If an engraver is not available, they can be purchased at any hardware store at very little expense.

When marking your valuables, always use the number indicated by Woodbury Police, never use your Social Security Number.

Example: **MN082110** **WS** **00000**
 Woodbury ID Your Initials Next # in Log Sequence

As you mark your items, always engrave the number on an area that cannot be easily dismantled, and which is not easily seen. After marking your property, make a list of your valuables and keep a copy of the list in a safe place. If you should subsequently become a burglary victim, you will be able to quickly describe the stolen property from the list. Of course some items can not be marked and we suggest a photograph or video of these items. This will be of great help to the police department in our attempts to recover the stolen property. Once property has been marked and a list made, display an Operation Identification sticker on doors and windows which might be used for entry. By advertising your participation in "Operation ID" in this way, you are announcing that your valuable property has been marked and will be difficult for a burglar to re-sell. Often the presence of the sticker alone is enough to deter a burglar.



What Neighborhood Watch Is and Is Not!

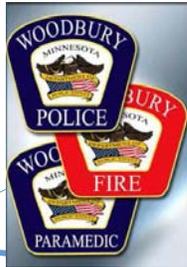
It is:

1. A crime prevention program where neighbors “Watch 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 that helps participants learn the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and sounds, evaluate them appropriately and then how to properly report them.
5. A crime prevention program that teaches participants how to make their homes more secure, to properly identify their property, and how to “Watch Out for Each Other”.
6. A cohesive body of concerned, involved, neighbors addressing many issues that concern the entire community.

It is not:

1. A vigilante force working outside the normal procedures of the local police department.
2. A 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in your neighborhood.
3. A program designed for residents to undertake personal risks to deter crime.





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Thank you for your interest and
concern for your neighborhood.

Be Safe! Be Smart!



WOODBURY PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
POLICE • EMS • FIRE

Emergency Dispatch: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Dispatch: 651-439-9381

Administration/Records: 651-714-3600

www.ci.woodbury.mn.us