

Neighborhood Watch Quick Reference Guide

1. What is Neighborhood Watch?

The Neighborhood Watch Program is a partnership between residents and the City that uses shared resources, grassroots organizing and community engagement to unite residents, strengthen neighborhoods, and increase safety.

2. Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

- Get to know your neighbors
 - Know who belongs in your neighborhood
 - Extended family members
 - Vehicles
- Build community strength, community identity
- Crime Prevention
 - Identify strange or suspicious persons/activity
 - Report suspicious activity or persons to police
- Disaster Preparedness
 - Share resources when disaster strikes

3. Function of Neighborhood Watch

- Share Information with each other
- Report crime or suspicious activity to police
- Citizen patrol – be aware of your surroundings as you walk the neighborhood or drive to/away from home; acknowledge strangers with eye contact or a wave as you work in the yard, go for walks, peer out windows

4. Structure of Neighborhood Watch

- Block Captain – primary role is to disseminate safety information to the group
- Co-Captain – assists block captain
- Members - actively participate in the group and watch out for one another

5. The Block Captain DOES:

- Disseminate Information
- Coordinate Meetings/Gatherings
- Seek the participation of new or shy neighbors

6. The Block Captain DOES NOT:

- Report crime for neighbors
- Take sole responsibility for addressing issues on behalf of the neighborhood; everyone pitches in!
- Act as a vigilante. Investigations and law enforcement are a peace officer's job
- Need to work alone. Co-captains and neighbors are available to help

7. Ways Neighbors can Share Information with Each Other

- Email
- Telephone Tree
- Community Blogs, facebook, social media
- Neighborhood Meetings
- Distribute Messages door –to – door

8. How to Obtain Crime Information

- CrimeReports (www.crimereports.com)
- Dublin Patch (Dublin.patch.com)
- Crime Bulletins or Press Releases from City
- Neighborhood Resources staff, Dublin Police Services, or neighbors

9. Calling for Service – Things to Know

- Each call is assigned an “Event Number” – ask for it
- Tell dispatch if you want the officer to contact you

Provide Details

- Location: spell out street names; use landmarks
- Vehicles: Color, make/model, 4dr/2dr, dir. of travel
- Persons: height/weight, hair/eye color, age, Scars/marks/tattoos, clothing, shoes, speech Patterns

10. Emergency v. Non-Emergency

- *Emergency*
 - Crimes in progress
 - Crimes against persons
 - Potential injury or harm (inc. traffic accidents)
 - When you can't decide
- *Non-Emergency*
 - Crimes against property
 - No apparent suspects

11. Important Phone Numbers

- Emergency
 - Landline: 9-1-1
 - Cell Phone: (925) 462-1212
- Non-Emergency
 - Landline or cell phone: (925) 462-1212
- Crime Tip Hotline (voicemail): (925) 833-6638
- Abandoned Vehicle Hotline (voicemail): (925) 452-2121
- Police Business Office/Records: (925) 833-6670

12. Getting Started

- **Block Captain**
 - Create/maintain an e-mail distribution list
 - Create/maintain a Neighborhood Map
 - Disseminate information received from the City/Police Services or from neighbors
 - Coordinate/Support Group Activities
- **Co-Captain**
 - Disseminate information to group in Block Captain's absence
 - Assist Block Captain as needed
- **Group**
 - Communicate suspicious activity to police and to one another
 - Be creative, encourage group interaction

13. Neighborhood Engagement Activities

- **Group Walks:** A form of citizen patrol
- **Neighborhood or Park Clean-Up:** Send a clear message to criminals that you care about your neighborhood by offering some TLC to a house or park in need of helping hands
- **Fundraiser:** Raise resources for a common cause
- **Neighborhood Garage Sale/Swap Meet:** A great way to downscale, have a good laugh, and maybe even donate funds to a charity
- **National Night Out:** Get to know neighbors and send a clear message that you are taking a stand against crime
- **Disaster Preparedness Coordination:** The Dublin Fire Prevention Bureau will help your group plan for a disaster. *Contact Neighborhood Resources to set up a meeting: (925) 833-6610.*