



**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
**WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER™**



# DERRY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

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### ***WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?***

A Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense. It teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. In addition, it provides citizens with the opportunity to make their neighborhoods safer and improve the quality of life. Neighborhood Watch groups typically focus on observation and awareness as a means of preventing crime and employ strategies that range from simply promoting social interaction and "watching out for each other."

### ***OBJECTIVES OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:***

- To prevent crime by improving security, increasing alertness and creating and maintaining a caring community in an effort to reduce the opportunities for crime.
- To assist the police in detecting crime by promoting effective two-way communication and the prompt reporting of suspicious and criminal activity.
- To reduce undue fear of crime by providing accurate information about crime risks and by promoting a sense of security and community spirit, particularly amongst the more vulnerable members of the community.
- To enhance the police/community partnerships by effective communication through systems such as the neighborhood watch Block Captain Program. The neighborhood watch unit communicates with the Block Captains via e-mails, fax phone or mail of local crime trends which they may then distribute to their neighborhood watch members.

### ***THE BENEFITS OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:***

- To get your neighbors involved to help reduce crime in your neighborhood.
- To get to know your neighbors.
- Easy way to reach out to everyone with information and to receive information about the neighborhood.
- Having everyone keep their eyes open and having a better understanding will help keep the neighborhood safer.

### ***THE FIRST MEETING:***

The first neighborhood Watch meeting is considered a working/organizational meeting. All attendees should introduce themselves and sign a sheet with their names, addresses and phone numbers. The Officer will introduce him or herself and explain and discuss;

- The neighborhood Watch Program.
- Information about specific crime problems in your area.
- Effective crime prevention techniques for home and neighborhood safety.
- How to report a crime.
- The need for neighborhood involvement in crime prevention and what it can accomplish.

Select a Block Captain. The qualities of a great leader is someone who will sustain the effort, get along well with people and listen constructively, use good communication and negotiating skills, will delegate tasks, conduct meetings effectively and efficiently, have a long-range vision of neighborhood and community improvement, see the position as a civic duty, not a power trip or a chance for personal gain.

**BLOCK CAPTAIN:** Is responsible for organizing meetings and relaying information to members. Through the Block Captain and through neighborhood watch meetings, officers pass along crime prevention tips and information to members of the community.

The initial duties of the Block Captain are listed below:

- Compile a membership list.
- Develop an area map with home addresses.
- Organize crime prevention activities, e.g., watching homes when residents are away.
- Recruit new members.
- Establish and maintain a phone tree with home and work numbers that group members can use to contact residents in an emergency.

#### **WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR?**

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking into windows and parked cars.
- Unusual noises
- Property being taken from closed businesses or from houses where no one is at home.
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or with no lights on.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.
- Abandoned cars.

#### **REPORTING A CRIME:**

- Stay Calm
- It is important not to panic even though you might be scared.
- Call the police *immediately!* (DPD 432-6111 or Emergency 911)
- On the phone, give the police the most important information first—the location of the crime, the type of crime, whether there are injuries, where the criminal went, etc.
- Write down what you saw and heard *immediately!*
- Tell the police what happened, when, where, and who was involved.
- Describe the suspect: sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, and distinctive characteristics (facial hair, scars, tattoos, accent, etc.).
- Describe any vehicle involved: color, make, model, year, license plate, and special features: stickers, dents, or decals, as well as the direction of travel from the crime scene.





### SUSPECT VEHICLE DESCRIPTION FORM

Plate Number

Make/Model

Color

Vehicle Type

Damage/Condition

No. of Doors

External Features  
roof rack/sun roof

No. of Persons  
male/female

Speed/Direction



Location of Vehicle

Reason for Suspicion

Name of Person Completing Form: Date/Time:

## 9-1-1 • Stay on the Telephone • Don't Hang Up

FILL IN ALL BLANKS AND GIVE TO THE FIRST POLICE OFFICER ON THE SCENE

Vehicle License Make Color

Direction of Escape

Method of Escape  
 Foot  
 Vehicle

Race Sex

Hat (color, type, etc.)

Age

Shirt

Height

Tie

Weight

Coat

Hair

Pants

Eyes

Shoes

Scars, Marks, Tattoos

**REPORT CRIME IMMEDIATELY!**

Speak clearly... Stay on telephone...

**DON'T HANG UP!**

REMARKS

Type of Weapon  
Hand gun    
Shot gun

As the Police begin looking for the suspect(s), think about what they are going to be looking for first?

Be descriptive when providing suspect information:

- White male in red ski jacket
- Blue sedan
- 4 doors
- driven by a Hispanic male
- heading towards Main St.
- approx. 1 minute ago.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



# HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

## Exterior Doors:

- Lock your doors! Day or night, even if you leave the house for 5 minutes.
- Ensure your doors are solid wood or metal and have a good locking system (handle lock and deadbolt).
- Spare keys are kept with a trustworthy neighbor/friend or “hidden” in a place only known to your family (not under the door mat).

## Garage and Sliding Door Security:

- Garage doors are closed and rear doors are locked.
- Access doors to your home, via your garage, are sturdy and locked.
- A dowel or locking device secures your sliding doors. Preventing the sliding door to be pushed in or lifted off its track.

## Protecting Windows:

- Windows are closed and locked when you leave. Especially first floor windows.
- If open a few inches for ventilation, ensure a lock is installed preventing the window from being lifted higher.

## Outdoor Security:

- Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide or access windows/doors w/out being seen.
- Outdoor lights (hardwired or motion) cover your front and back doors.

## THINK LIKE A BURGLAR

The goal of the majority of suspects who commit burglaries are to access a home or business and steal property. They want to do this quickly because the longer they are there the greater the chances they will get caught.

MO: The burglar usually has a car to transport his/her take. They will usually knock on the door and have a fake story ready to go if someone is actually home (“Can I rake your leaves, Does Steve live here, etc). If no one answers the door they might try the same act on the back door. They will usually kick in a door or access an open window that is out of sight of the street and/or neighbors. Once inside they will grab whatever they can get quickly. Usually, it will be flat screen TV’s, jewelry, audio equipment, etc. Using cell phones to communicate with each other, they will then flee, usually into a waiting car that is in the driveway or just out of sight.

THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
WATCH

## **MAKE YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD LESS ATTRACTIVE TO A BURGLAR**

- ✓ Most burglaries occur in the daytime. Lock your home and cars when you leave.
- ✓ Keep your eye open to any suspicious behavior. It's your neighborhood; you know what is normal or odd.
- ✓ Leave a radio or TV on when you leave.
- ✓ Dogs make great deterrents.
- ✓ Alarm systems are as inexpensive as \$120 and are effective. Even an alarm company sticker at the front door might be a good deterrent.
- ✓ Record all your valuables serial numbers along with a brief description or photograph.

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**Please report any suspicious behavior to  
the Derry Police Department. We are  
on duty 24 hours a day to assist you,  
anyway that we can.**

**603.432.6111**

Or

**911 for Emergencies**

[www.derrynh.org/police-department](http://www.derrynh.org/police-department)

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