

How to start a Neighborhood Watch

Step 1.

Contact your neighbors and see what the expressed level of interest is. We have brochures that we can email or mail you to help introduce and explain the program. Contact [Officer Natasha Welch](#) at 786-8585 or ncw@muni.org to request materials. Find out what night of the week would work best for the majority of your group.

Step 2.

Decide on the boundaries of your Neighborhood Watch. Will it be a city block, a condo association or half of a long street? Group size should be kept within manageable limits. A useful rule of thumb is when it comes down to making phone calls, or ringing doorbells, no one should be responsible for more than 20 homes. [All participants should be able to clearly see each others homes.](#) Keep the group small and manageable.

Step 3.

Call the Neighborhood Watch office at 786-8585 and schedule an Introduction Presentation with the staff. We are available Monday through Thursday from noon until 10pm. A 7pm start time has historically worked well for most working families. The presentation is about an hour long and may be longer with questions. The staff will provide your group with a crime map detailing the past years worth of reported crime in your groups area.

Step 4.

Hold the Presentation. Choose a meeting place that is handy to your area. A presentation held in the home of a participant usually draws the best turnout versus one that is held at a location participants have to drive to.

Suggested Meeting Checklist:

1. **Find a meeting place that is free**, conveniently located and of a suitable size.
2. **Establish a time and date** convenient for residents and the Neighborhood Watch staff.
3. **Promote the meeting** by invitations, email and word of mouth to all neighbors in your area. The meeting should be promoted as an opportunity for problem solving through dialogue with neighbors and Neighborhood Watch staff.
4. **Set up the meeting place** to encourage interaction by all participants. Set up reception tables so that attendees may be able to sign up for the new Neighborhood Watch.

Once at least 50% of the designated area has participated in the presentation, you will qualify for window clings and decals provided by the program staff. A sign will be posted in your area as decided by the Municipal Traffic office with coordination from the Key Person or organizer.

The higher the participation rate in a Neighborhood Watch group, the more effective the group will be. If participation is less than 50%, we can hold more than one presentation to get the whole group qualified.