



EL SEGUNDO

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

A partnership between the community and the El Segundo Police Department

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program where residents cooperate with the El Segundo Police Department to deter crime and make their neighborhoods safer. Neighborhood Watch involves neighbors getting to know each other to develop a program of mutual assistance. Finally, it involves neighbors using crime prevention strategies as tools to reduce crime in the community. Neighbors who recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods help keep their community safe.

Any city resident can participate and make a difference! Good neighbors are what make a Neighborhood Watch Program successful. They are the “eyes and ears” of their neighborhood. Building a community spirit helps keep everyone safer and more secure, and that’s what Neighborhood Watch is all about!

Watch groups are not vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. Neighborhood Watch helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address community concerns such as beautification and disaster preparedness. We do not advise you ever to put yourself in danger or confront a criminal. Always report to the El Segundo Police Department from a safe distance.

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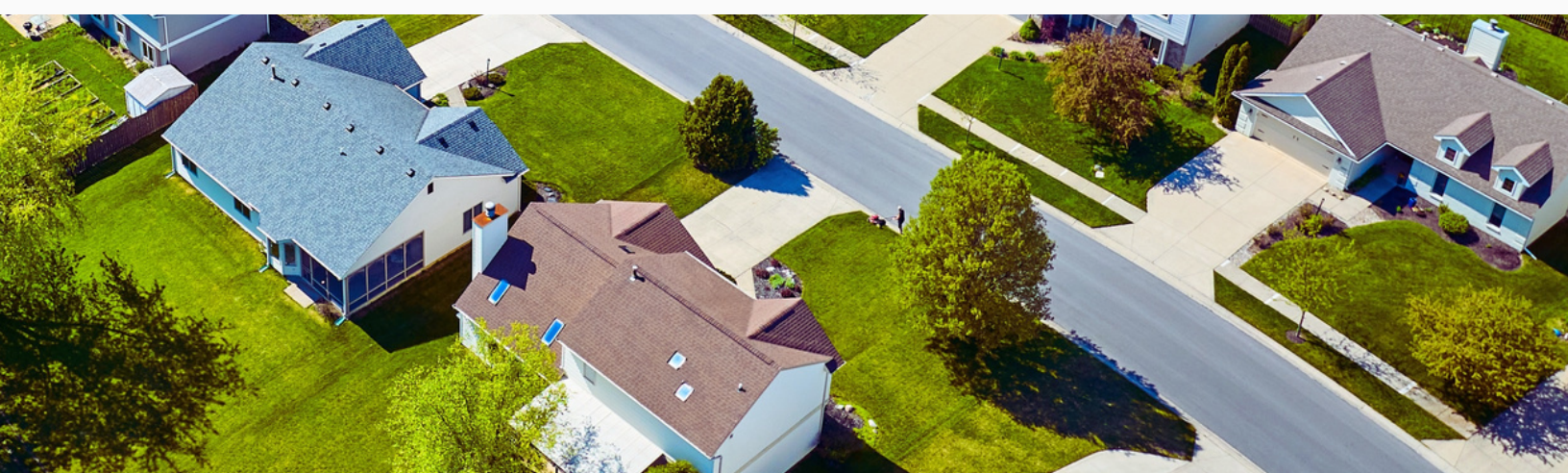
WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

There cannot be a police officer on every corner, so citizen involvement is essential to deter crime. By working together with your neighbors and the El Segundo Police Department, people can help fight crime in their community with the most effective approach; stopping it before it occurs. This can happen when Neighborhood Watch members place stickers in their windows and post Neighborhood Watch signs on streets, they warn criminals they are in an active Neighborhood Watch community and that “neighbors are watching out for each other.”

A Neighborhood Watch Program can provide a real sense of community that is lacking in many cities. Feelings of belonging and pride in one’s neighborhood come from the ongoing communication and cooperation that is developed between neighbors in a neighborhood watch program.

Active Neighborhood Watch groups can make changes through their local officials, such as improving street lighting, increase police patrols, and changing traffic flow patterns. The community has a responsibility to deter crime. The most effective approach to fighting crime is a proactive one. This can happen when neighbors in a community work together with the Police Department to create a formidable crime-fighting team.

- You’ll get regular updates regarding activities in El Segundo’s residential areas.
- ESPD staff can provide you with tools to communicate with your neighbors and coordinate informational block meetings and training.
- Participants learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicions.



HOW DO I START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM?

ESPD will assist in starting and maintaining a program in your neighborhood. ESPD's Crime Prevention Analyst, Sirena Boskovich, and other members of the Community Engagement Division will be available for your first and subsequent meeting to assist with the initial organization of the Neighborhood Watch Program and discuss crime concerns specific to your neighborhood. Talk to your neighbors. Are they aware of or concerned about specific crime problems in your area? If they are, be sure to mention the following:

- Neighborhood Watch is a partnership between neighbors to assist ESPD in the reduction and fear of crime.
- Neighborhood Watch does not require frequent meetings.
- Neighborhood Watch does not make or ask anyone to take personal risks to prevent crime.
- ESPD will attend your meetings/trainings to answer questions about crime and provide information about police procedures.

We suggest to do the following:

1. Determine your boundaries. Smaller groups of 10-20 houses are more manageable to organize and work best for Neighborhood Watch.
2. Select a Block Captain and Co-Captain.
3. Establish a method for effective neighborhood communication.
4. Recruit members. Making a special effort to include the elderly, working parents and young people.
5. Create a block map and telephone tree.
6. Identify areas of concern that are specific to your neighborhood.
7. Order a Neighborhood Watch sign.
8. Place your Neighborhood Watch window sticker in a front window.

MAINTAINING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

After your Neighborhood Watch group is established, be sure everyone understands and observes the following guidelines:

- Be alert to unusual or suspicious behavior in your neighborhood. Call ESPD if necessary. Write down descriptions of suspicious person(s) and license plate numbers.
- Tell a trusted neighbor if your house will be unoccupied for an extended period. Tell him or her how to reach you in an emergency.
- Look after your neighbors' homes when they are away and ask them to look after yours. This includes picking up mail, newspapers, and storing trashcans or recycling bins. Don't send a message that says, "No One Is Home."
- Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings as often as possible.
- Your ESPD Crime Prevention Analyst and Community Lead Officers will teach you about local crime trends and what you can do about them.



STAY ACTIVE

It's unfortunate that when a neighborhood crime crisis goes away, so does enthusiasm for Neighborhood Watch. The key to keeping a Neighborhood Watch group active is maintaining people's interest over time. Make belonging to your Neighborhood Watch group enjoyable. People will get involved and remain interested if the programs are fun as well as meaningful. Use your imagination.

You may want to consider:

- Organize regular meetings that focus on other issues such as emergency preparedness.
- Develop a neighborhood beautification project.
- Do not forget social events that give neighbors a chance to know each other - host a block party, picnic, etc.

Above all, stay involved. It is the most effective way to reduce or prevent crime and make your neighborhood safe. Remember, your job is to report a crime. The responsibility for apprehending criminals belongs to the police.