

Remember that you do not have to be part of an organized group or Neighborhood Watch to call the police to report crime or suspicious activity. Be a good neighbor and call in what you see! Calling the police on suspicious activity before anything happens is the key to prevention. Most times, thieves will **not** target an area where residents keep calling the police. You can always report anonymously by calling (805) 486-8362. The direct number to dispatch is (805) 385-7740 or 9-1-1 (emergency). Additional numbers to call are: Gun and Gang Hotline at (805) 982-7043, Violent Crimes Hotline at (805) 982-7070, Ventura County Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-8477 or visit [www.venturacountycrimestoppers.org](http://www.venturacountycrimestoppers.org).



*“Protecting Our Community With  
Exceptional Service”*



## CITY OF OXNARD NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



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## CITY OF OXNARD NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watches began mobilizing in the 60's in response to high profile criminal cases where witnesses did not call police or assist in apprehending the offender. Increases in crime led to widespread interest in forming Neighborhood Watches. These groups formed to report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. In 1972, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) created the National Neighborhood Watch Program to assist law enforcement and the public. Then, the very commonly known and recognizable logo "Boris the Burglar" was created. This logo, a black silhouetted masked suspect in a red "no symbol," has been the face of Neighborhood Watch since its inception.

Neighborhood Watch enlists the active participation of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime, solve problems and improve the quality of life in your area. Neighborhood Watch members get to know their neighbors and learn how to:

- Recognize and report crimes and suspicious activities;
- Protect themselves, their family and their property;
- Protect their neighbor's family and property; and
- Identify crime and disorder problems in their area and work with Oxnard PD to solve them.

The biggest thing to remember is "watch groups are not vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and extra hands for helping neighbors."<sup>1</sup> Neighborhood Watch members are trained to be non-confrontational and used for observation and reporting purposes only. The group never serves as an extension of the police department or Code Enforcement.

### HOW TO START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

- Talk to your neighbors and determine if there is interest in forming a Neighborhood Watch group in your area.
- Discuss with your neighbors the benefits of a program and the problems to be addressed. Ask about convenient times and places for the first meeting. Be sure to mention that Neighborhood Watch does not require frequent meetings or personal risks, and that an OPD beat coordinator will be invited to the first meeting to answer questions.

<sup>1</sup> "Neighborhood Watch Part 1" PowerPoint - National Crime Prevention Council 2007-2008

- Today, there are few active Neighborhood Watches in the City of Oxnard but recently there has been a renewed interest in reviving them. Members of the public have asked for information on Neighborhood Watch and how they can start one in their own neighborhood, apartment complex or business. If you would like information on how to start your own NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP, contact your beat coordinator for more information. Flyers and training are available for interested community members.

### GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

#### Get To Know Your Neighbors

Neighbors watching out for each other is the basic concept of neighborhood watch. Know the neighbors on all sides of your home. Learn what vehicles belong in your neighborhood.

#### Secure Your Home

Secure your home when you leave even for short periods of time. Lock your doors and windows before you leave! Most burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Residences with unlocked doors and/or windows are the easiest targets.

#### Stolen Vehicles/Theft From Vehicles

The safest place for your car is in your garage. The second safest place for your car is in your driveway locked up. All valuables should be removed from your car or at least placed out of sight. Most cars are not broken into if there are no items in plain view for the burglar to see.

#### Keep Your Garage Door Closed

Garage burglaries often occur during the day. The burglar simply walks into an open garage, removes what he/she wants and is gone in a minute or two.

#### Neighborhood Meetings

Attend neighborhood meetings to keep informed about crime problems in your area and to discuss what can be done to reduce crime.