

## **Neighborhood Watch**

It only takes a minute for a burglary to happen. On average a burglar will spent no more than 60 seconds to enter a home.

How well do you know the neighbors that live on either side of you? How about across the street?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program which enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime. There can not be a law enforcement officer on every corner, so citizen involvement is essential.

Knowing your neighbors and working together can deter crime. Watching out for each other is better than having burglars watching for an opportunity to steal from you. By working together in a neighborhood watch you can reduce the chances of becoming a victim.

By working with the police and other government agencies you can make your neighborhood a better place to live. A Neighborhood Watch is not just about law enforcement. Other problems can be addressed such as street lighting, streets, abandoned buildings, and neighborhood appearance. Regular meetings help keep area residence informed of problems in your area. Your meeting can take place at schools, churches, or anywhere that is convenient for the group.

Neighborhood watches allow for information to be shared so the area residents know what to look out for. You can keep small problems from becoming larger problems by acting quickly and acting together. Neighborhood Watch groups require determined leadership and a willingness to help.

The police department can conduct training to make your homes and businesses less of a target. We have training on lock and window strengthening. How lighting and basic landscaping makes your property more visible to patrolling officers. Reporting of criminal activity is vital. Learn how the police department responds to crime problems. Meet the officers that work in your neighborhoods. We will work with you to make your watch group a success.

To begin a Neighborhood Watch contact the Police Department at 236-1473





816-279-4YOU • Cable Channel 19 www.stjoemo.info

