

Marysville Police Department

Neighborhood Watch Program



What is the Neighborhood Watch Program?

How can I start one?

Responsibilities of a Neighborhood Watch Program

Marysville Neighborhood Watch Program:

Neighborhood Watch was created to encourage citizen involvement in fighting crime. It is the most effective means of keeping crime out of our neighborhoods. The concept is simple:

- Lock your doors and windows;
- Recognize suspicious/criminal activity;
- Report anything that appears to be suspicious.

When citizens band together as a Neighborhood Watch group and combine their efforts with law enforcement, we have created a crime prevention team. The active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement involves:

- Neighbors getting to know each other and working together;
- Citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious activities;
- Implementation of crime prevention techniques such as home security and Operation Identification.

If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch group in your neighborhood, contact Marysville Police Department Crime Prevention Coordinator Carolyn Johnson at (530) 749-3955.

What exactly is a Neighborhood Watch Program?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that enlists the active involvement of citizens in our community. The goal is to create an environment where neighbors know and care about each other and their neighborhood.

As a member of your own Marysville Neighborhood Watch group, you can improve the quality of life in your own community. You can reduce opportunities for crime by looking out for your neighbors and acting as extra eyes and ears for our Police Department. An important responsibility for all Neighborhood Watch participants is to report anything suspicious to the Marysville Police Department at (530) 749-3900.

Why should I be in a Neighborhood Watch group?

Marysville Neighborhood Watch is for every adult in every community within Marysville. Typically a group is all of the homes in your neighborhood which are within visual range of each other. *You* are the *eyes and ears* of our Police Department in your neighborhood. Your communication with our Police Department and with your neighbors, you create a powerful deterrent to those who would harm you or your property.

As a Marysville Neighborhood Watch participant, you assume certain responsibilities:

- Get to know your neighbors, their vehicles and their children;
- Be a good neighbor, maintain your property and your home;
- Cooperate and communicate with your neighbors and keep an eye on their property when they're gone;
- Be alert to comings and goings in your neighborhood;
- Attend Neighborhood Watch meetings, secure your home and property as detailed in the handouts and presentations that you will be given;
- Participate in a Home Security Check. One of our Police Volunteers can visit your home to complete a check with you and provide you with tips and even install door and window locks at no charge to you;
- Mark all of your valuables and record photos of them;
- Be willing to notify the Marysville Police Department when suspicious activity occurs, giving detailed, accurate information;
- Notify your alarm company, if you have one, and keep contact names and numbers current. Keep your alarm permit up to date and your system functioning properly.

How do I start a Neighborhood Watch group?

1. Contact your Marysville Crime Prevention Coordinator Carolyn Johnson at (530) 749-3955;
2. Take the flyers and brochures she provides to your neighbors and ask them if they are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch group in your neighborhood. Ask them to read the material and give you a call with their response. Once you have enough interested people who want a Neighborhood Watch program, find out when the majority of your neighbors can attend a meeting. Contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at the Police Department to be sure that she is available. She can also provide you with flyers to announce your meeting.
3. Distribute flyers to your neighbors announcing the upcoming organizational meeting. Be sure to include the date, time, contact phone number and location.

Block Captain duties vary in each neighborhood, but here are some typical duties:

- Be the spokesperson for the group;
- Serve as liaison between the Marysville Police Department and your Neighborhood Watch group;
- Organize and arrange your own Neighborhood Watch meetings (neighbors should share the responsibility of hosting these meetings);
- Maintain a master list of all members and important information – be sure to share this list with the Marysville Police Department Crime Prevention Coordinator;
- Delegate work assignments such as:
 - New recruitments
 - Vacation Home Watch
 - Block parents
 - Neighborhood Patrol
 - Fundraising activities (if you choose to do them)
 - Secretarial duties
 - Developing & maintaining block maps
 - Distribution of materials

Once you have a Neighborhood Watch group established, the City will install Neighborhood Watch signs in your neighborhood.

WatchMail uses E-mail to share information quickly:

WatchMail is an optional aspect of the Marysville Neighborhood Watch program, where participants use e-mail to quickly and easily share information about suspicious activity, possible crimes or threats to the neighborhood.

Neighborhood block captains appoint a host to establish an e-mail list for the group. The block captain promotes the WatchMail program at block meetings and encourages members to report anything suspicious through e-mail messages.

Suspicious activity and actual crimes are shared with WatchMail member **AFTER** they have been reported to the Marysville Police

Department. All incidents are always reported to the authorities *first*. If incidents are life-threatening and/or if a suspect is present and is actively committing a crime, 9-1-1 should be dialed from a residential phone. **NOTE: Dialing 9-1-1 from a cell phone will connect citizens first with California Highway Patrol and the call will then be routed to the appropriate agency, such as Marysville Police Department for fire and/or medical and crime emergencies.**

WatchMail is typically used to share information about:

- Aggressive and suspicious solicitors;
- Speeders, reckless drivers, stop sign runners;
- Vandalism of mailboxes, lawns, houses, cars;
- Theft and burglary of property and cars;
- Attempted break-ins;
- Loose dogs;
- Suspicious vehicles and people;
- Ringing burglar alarms at houses or cars;
- Neighborhood Watch meeting announcements.

Please call Carolyn Johnson at the Marysville Police Department at (530) 749-3955 to share your list of e-mail addresses, so that she may send you important information about upcoming events, safety tips or other noteworthy items. You may also e-mail Ms. Johnson at cjohnson@marysville.ca.us

Police volunteers provide vacation checks:

While you are away on vacation or in the hospital, Marysville Police volunteers will regularly check your home and property at no charge to you (although a donation will be accepted but is not required to receive this service!). Police volunteers will survey your property for anything unusual. They will check doors and windows, and walk around your home to be sure that everything is secure. If you have a locked fence or dogs in your yard, volunteers will not enter your backyard. If they see or hear anything suspicious, they will radio into the police department and will remain in the area until an officer arrives. Once the officer has evaluated the concern, your emergency contact person may be notified. Upon your return you will receive a letter to let you know of any problems.

Call the Marysville Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit for a Vacation Check application at (530) 749-3955. For your protection, you must leave your completed application to the Marysville Police Department.