

## How To Report An Incident

- For emergencies call 9-1-1.
- For non emergencies call (561) 688-3400
- Give your name and address.
- Explain what happened.
- Briefly describe the suspect: sex, race, approximate age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, any distinctive characteristics such as a beard, mustache, scar, tattoo etc.
- Describe the vehicle if one was involved: make, model, color, year, license tag, any special features.

For more information on starting a Neighborhood Watch, contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit at (561) 688-3970.



Dear Friends:

Since 1909, the deputies of Palm Beach County have always provided a safe environment for the people who live, work and visit Palm Beach County. The Sheriff's Office is committed to improving awareness, and sharing the fundamentals of crime prevention in order to ensure our community is safe and secure.

The goal of crime prevention is to reduce the risk of becoming a victim. In order to accomplish this effectively, it is important to remove opportunities for a criminal to take advantage of you and your property. You are attempting to prevent either victimization or criminalization by presenting an unattractive target to the criminal. This can be as complex as installing a high tech alarm system and lighting to something as simple as locking your doors.

Crime prevention is using instinct, common sense, and taking action to eliminate or greatly reduce the criminal's opportunity. We all have a personal part to play regarding crime prevention. A large share of the responsibility of reducing criminal opportunity lies with you.

Thank you for working with us to make Palm Beach County a safer place for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

Ric Bradshaw, Sheriff  
Palm Beach County



The mission of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit is to help reduce crime in business and residential communities by working together in partnership and through various proactive strategies, techniques, and programs.

## EMERGENCY - DIAL 911

**Non-Emergency Numbers:**  
South County (561) 995-2800  
North County (561) 688-3000  
West County (561) 996-1670

For more information contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit  
1937 N Military Trail, Suite-Q  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33409  
(561) 688-3970  
Email: [CrimePrevention@pbso.org](mailto:CrimePrevention@pbso.org)



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INFORMATION



*Citizens Working Together  
For A Safer Neighborhood*

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office  
Ric L. Bradshaw, Sheriff





# What is Neighborhood Watch?

Citizens participation is one of the most effective tools against crime because the job of stopping Burglary, Larceny or Criminal Activity is impossible for the Sheriff's Office to accomplish alone.

Neighborhood Watch is a network of neighbors trained by crime prevention officers in home security, recognition and identification of suspicious persons and/or activity.

Neighborhood Watch groups provide a way for good neighbors to help one another by keeping an eye on each others home and property. An email network is set up to enable neighbors to keep each other informed of any activity occurring in their neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch is an observe and report type of program. Neighborhood Watch members are encouraged **not** to stop and question people, but to observe and report their observations to the Sheriff's Office and a trained officer will respond and investigate the incident.

## Why Neighborhood Watch

It works. In communities that have an active Neighborhood Watch there is a decrease in burglaries and related offenses where members report incidents to the Sheriff's Office.

In today's society, many families have two working parents and have children involved in many activities that keep them away from home. It's important for us to know our neighbors to prevent the homes in our neighborhoods from being a prime target while its residents are at work or involved in children's activities.

Neighborhood Watch brings a community together and serves as a starting point for efforts that address other community concerns.

A criminal's job gets a lot tougher in a neighborhood where people are watching out for each other.

## Getting Started

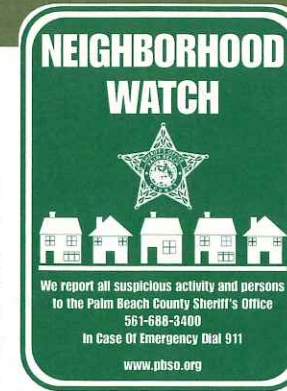
- Must have a motivated person within your community who is willing to take the lead as the primary contact person for the community
- Invite the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit to assist with starting your watch group
- Select a date, place and time for an initial meeting about Neighborhood Watch
- Post meeting notice and/or distribute it to residents

## What Law Enforcement will do for you:

- Train members in home safety, personal safety and reporting skills
- Brief members on crime statistics and trends in the community
- Provide (2) Crime Watch signs for your community
- Provide safety information and safety tips via email to distribute to members

## Community Involvement

Any resident of the community can join - young, old, single, married, renters and homeowners. Businesses can be an important part of Neighborhood Watch as well - they can keep a close watch on neighbors as they come and go.



## Major Components of Neighborhood Watch

- **Community Meetings.** Meetings are recommended to be set up on a regular basis such as monthly, quarterly, or bi-annually.
- **Citizens' Participation.** Citizens who walk or drive through the community and who will alert the Sheriff's Office to crime and to suspicious activities.
- **Special Events.** These are important to keep the program going and growing. Host talks that focus on current issues such as crime in the area, crime in schools, teenage alcohol and drug abuse, or domestic violence. Sponsor a block party, holiday gathering, or community picnic, organize volleyball, softball games or golf tournaments. All will provide neighbors a chance to get to know each other.

## Responsibilities As A Neighborhood Watch Member

- Be alert!
- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other
- Report suspicious activities and crimes to the Sheriff's Office
- Get involved and learn how you can make yourself and your community safer

## Kinds Of Activities To Be Aware Of As A Neighborhood Watch Member

- Someone screaming or shouting for help
- Someone looking in windows of houses and parked vehicles
- Property being removed from houses where no one is at home or from a closed business
- Vehicles moving slowly through the neighborhood or people sitting in parked vehicles near or at a residence

## Examples of when to call 911

- When you see smoke or fire
- When someone's life and/or property is in immediate danger
- When a crime is being committed
- When rescue or emergency medical assistance is needed
- When you are not sure, call and let trained personnel decide the appropriate response

