

Why Neighborhood Watch?

Having Neighborhood Watch on your block not only benefits you as residents, but also benefits the Police Department. Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce crime, and improves relations between police and the community. Watch members are the extra eyes and ears of the police department who report crime and suspicious activity. As Block Captains, and Watch Members you play an important role in keeping New Hope a safe and wonderful place to live.

Some of the advantages of having a Neighborhood Watch on your block include:

- Each household will receive “**T.I.P.S., Tips and Information for Public Safety**”, the New Hope Police Crime Prevention Newsletter that provides current crime prevention and safety information and a heads up on activities the crime prevention unit is involved in.
- **Neighborhood Watch Signs** will be installed, and will remain posted in your neighborhood as long as your group is active.
- Block Captains will receive “**Crime Alert**” information from the Police Department when a crime alert is issued in your area.
- Neighborhood Watch groups have annual **crime prevention presentations** from members of the Police Department, Fire Department, or other public safety officials to discuss topics in crime prevention and public safety.
- Being a part of Neighborhood Watch gives neighbors the opportunity to **bond, and to discuss issues that affect the neighborhood**. Many times people who live in neighborhoods without neighborhood watch feel isolated and afraid to report incidents of crime. Neighborhood Watch often creates an atmosphere where minor neighborhood disputes can be resolved without police intervention, and creates a unified front to tackle tough issues of crime and public safety.

What are the Requirements?

In order to remain “active” as a neighborhood watch group, your block would need to:

- Have participation by at least 50% of your neighborhood
- Have at least two meetings per year
- Participate in Operation Identification – At least 50% of your group
- Have a Neighborhood Watch Block Captain who would:
 - Serve as a liaison between the neighborhood and the Police Department
 - Maintain a current list of watch members;
 - Help to plan the required two meetings per year for your group
 - Organize Distribution of Newsletters and Crime Alerts as needed to each household in the neighborhood.
 - Welcome new people to the neighborhood and invite them to join the Neighborhood Watch.