

The ABCs of Neighborhood Watch

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 burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between law enforcement and the community they serve.

A few concerned residents or a community organization can spearhead the effort to organize a neighborhood watch. Any community resident can join - young or old, single or married, renter or homeowner.

Participants learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicions to the Police Department. Watch groups are not vigilantes, but rather the extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. A neighborhood watch group can be formed around any geographical unit: a block, apartment complex, or business area.

Important Phone Numbers



- Emergency911
- Police Business Line.....596-1913
- Police Non-Emergency.....593-2531
- Fire Business Line.....596-5991
- Traffic Hotline.....392-6577
- Graffiti Removal.....596-8787
- City Hall.....596-8726
- Inland Valley Humane Society....623-9777

City of La Verne Police Department

2061 Third Street
La Verne, CA 91750
909/596-1913
www.lvpd.org

Chief Scott Pickwith

Neighborhood Watch



City of La Verne Police Department



Getting Organized

Each neighborhood watch group or street should have a "block captain." The role of the block captain is to be a spokesperson for the group. This person organizes the neighborhood watch meeting. The block captain's role is to assist the neighborhood watch group, not to monitor problems. **Remember to call the police if you see or hear anything suspicious, not the block captain.**

Getting to know one another is important in establishing a successful neighborhood watch group. For example, by knowing your neighbors' vehicles and daily routines, you will readily recognize unusual or suspicious activities. Holding an initial meeting is the best way to get acquainted, discuss any concerns, and exchange information. At a minimum, neighbors should exchange names, addresses, and phone numbers. Follow-up meetings are encouraged to keep neighbors in touch with one another and to keep everyone's information up-to-date.

Neighborhood watch signs can be a deterrent to would-be criminals. If your group is interested in having signs placed in your neighborhood, contact the Crime Prevention Office for more information.

The La Verne Police Department will gladly work with you to establish your watch group. Please contact us for further information.

Doing Your Part

Reporting incidents to the Police Department is the key to a successful neighborhood watch program.

Below are examples of when to call the Police Department, however, if you are in doubt, CALL ~ do not wait!

- Someone screaming or shouting for help;
- Someone looking into windows or parked cars;
- Unusual noises;
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home;
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination, or without lights during dark hours;
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle;
- Abandoned cars.

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If you become the victim of a crime or if you encounter suspicious activity, you are urged to report the incident as quickly as possible by calling the Police Department.



Reporting Crime

Call the appropriate number
Emergencies: 9-1-1 (OR)
Non-emergencies: 593-2531

What do I need to say when I call?

- Tell the dispatcher what you are reporting; He/she will ask you your name and address; Stay calm and follow his/her instructions.
- Briefly describe the event: what happened, when, where, and who was involved.
- Give a suspect and/or vehicle description if possible:

Suspect: sex, race, age, height, weight hair color, clothing, and distinctive characteristics such as a beard, mustache, scars, or accent.

Vehicle: color, make, model, year, license plate, and special features such as stickers, dents, or decals.

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It is not mandatory that you give your name and contact information when calling the police. However, it is encouraged as it is very helpful in case further information is needed regarding the incident.