



***Prescott Valley Police Department
7601 E. Skoog Blvd.
Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314
(928) 772-9261***

BLOCK WATCH

WHAT IS IT?

The Block Watch program is the cornerstone of all crime prevention programs. It entails the active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce burglaries and other neighborhood crimes. Its primary purpose is the protection of property; yours and your neighbors.

Most home burglaries occur during the day and early evening hours, when alert neighbors could spot the thieves and call police. Concerned citizens are doing just that. They are part of a Block Watch program. Neighbors looking out for neighbors.

Block Watch crime prevention programs are a proven and effective means to substantially reduce not only the incidence of residential burglaries in a specified geographical area, but the incidence of other crimes. *A good neighbor is one of the most effective crime prevention tools ever invented.*

Block Watch teaches you the steps that you can take to help protect your own home. It also organizes a neighborhood group which can make crime prevention part of every person's daily routine, just by watching out for each other. Your job is to report suspicious activity to the police. Let the police handle apprehending the crooks!

The Prescott Valley Police Department continues to actively support the Block Watch program. It is one vehicle by which we hope to conduct a sustained attack on crime through innovative crime prevention techniques.

IT INVOLVES:

Fifty percent of the homes in the designated area must participate. Block Watch neighborhoods can be as small as a cul-de-sac or as large as a development. The police department provides the Block Watch street signs after the first initial meeting. The criteria to maintain your area as a registered Block Watch neighborhood and to keep the Block Watch street signs is to have at least one meeting per year. This can often be done during the annual National Night Out event that is held on the first Tuesday in August. We do require that each Block Watch neighborhood have at least one Block Watch Captain, although having a Co-Captain as well is preferred. A Block Watch Captain is the person who organizes the first meeting and serves as the liaison between the police department and the Block Watch group.

Once fifty percent or more of the homes are organized for the Block Watch, the Prescott Valley Police Departments Neighborhood Block Watch Coordinator will come out to your neighborhood and give a presentation on the Block Watch program and provide a variety of helpful hints in recognizing suspicious activity.

- (1) *Becoming a neighborhood “watcher” is easy. If you see a crime occurring or suspicious activity in your neighborhood, immediately report what you have seen or heard to the police.*



- (2) *Utilize crime prevention measures to make it more difficult for criminals to perpetrate a crime in your neighborhood and your home.*



HOW TO START A BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM

First get organized.....

You have already started by reading this easy step-by-step process. You can also call the Prescott Valley Police Department and ask for the Neighborhood Block Watch Coordinator to speak with you regarding some questions you may have.

Canvas your neighborhood for interest. Discuss crime problems/concerns in your area and how neighbors working together can help prevent and reduce crime.

Be sure to mention that:

- ***Block Watch does not require frequent meetings.***
- ***It does not ask that anyone take any personal risk to prevent crime.***
- ***Block Watch leaves the responsibility for apprehension of the criminals where it belongs...with the police.***
- ***A Block Watch sign will be posted at the entrance/exit of your neighborhood, alerting visitors that your neighborhood is proactive in preventing crime.***

When talking to your neighbors, try to get an idea of what would be a convenient time to set up a meeting that would allow for the Prescott Valley Police Departments Neighborhood Block Watch Coordinator to meet with your group. Generally, weekday evenings work out best for everyone. Plan the meeting far enough in advance to give everyone adequate notice. Because the first meeting is considered a working/organizational meeting, we ask that no small children attend if possible.

THE FIRST BLOCK WATCH MEETING



PRIOR TO THE MEETING....

Send out flyers in your neighborhood reminding people of the Block Watch meeting date, time and place. Generally, 2 or 3 days before the meeting is helpful to remind everyone of the meeting.

THE DAY OF THE MEETING....

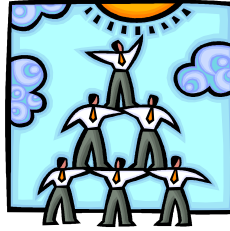
Prepare and distribute nametags. Maybe even have a Block Watch meeting sign posted in front of your home. Although not required, it is often a great idea to have refreshments available. Sometimes it can be part of the Block Watch meeting that everyone brings a “potluck” refreshment item.

DURING THE MEETING....

- Ensure that everyone has signed (in print) the Block Watch roster.
- Introduce the Neighborhood Block Watch Coordinator to your neighborhood guests.

The Neighborhood Block Watch Coordinator will explain and discuss the following information:

- (1) The Block Watch program
- (2) Effective crime prevention techniques for home and neighborhood safety
- (3) How to report a crime.
- (4) Information about specific crime problems in your neighborhood. Do not be disappointed if everyone cannot attend. 100% attendance is desired, but is NOT a requirement for the program to work.



YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY!

Once your Block Watch program is established be sure everyone understands and observes the following general guidelines:

- **BE SUSPICIOUS.** Report any unusual suspicious behavior to the Prescott Valley Police Department. For emergencies dial 911. The non-emergency telephone number is #772-9267.
- Keep a trusted neighbor informed if your home will be unoccupied for a long period. Also, you can always call the Prescott Valley Police Department and have your house placed on our free “Vacation Watch” program. Either way, it is important to leave someone a way to contact you in case of an emergency.
- Look after your neighbor’s house when they are away. Be sure to keep mail and newspapers from piling up at the residence.
- Above all, be concerned. One of the reasons we live here in Prescott Valley is to experience a quality life style. One of those key elements towards that is having safe neighborhoods. Often times, just a few extra seconds watching strangers walking or driving through your neighborhood is enough to prevent many crimes. Across the nation, neighborhoods that actively participate in a Block Watch program enjoy up to a 70% reduction in property related crimes.
- And remember...your job is to report crime. The responsibility for apprehending the criminals belongs to the police.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Prescott Valley Police Departments Neighborhood Block Watch Coordinator at #772-5113.



BLOCK WATCH ROSTER

PLEASE PRINT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone number</u>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____
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