MISSION STATEMENT

Block Watch is a communication program that focuses on crime prevention by educating and involving neighbors to reduce their risk of becoming victims.

To obtain help in establishing a Block Watch or to become a Block Watch Representative call your nearest C.O.P.S Shop or visit us at:

www.spokanecops.org
Facebook/SpokaneCOPS
Twitter@SpokaneCOPS

Block Watch (BW) makes sense being located in your neighborhood. C.O.P.S. volunteers are trained to help you with your phone trees, maps, printed materials and educational speakers for neighborhood meetings.

Block Watch provides a direct link with the Spokane Police Department and your Neighborhood Conditions Officer (NCO). Get to know your NCO!

Block Watch "Neighbor-to-Neighbor" network is a link to disaster preparedness and emergency response services by partnering with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams). All personal Block Watch information is strictly confidential.

CRIME FREE RENTAL PROPERTY PROGRAM

Spokane C.O.P.S. administers the Crime Free Rental Property program (CFRP) to assist landlords in reducing crime and calls for police service by promoting crime prevention education and focusing on safety issues in the living environment of apartment complexes. Membership in the program requires 16 hours of training, meeting minimum Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) requirements, holding two documented meetings per year with tenants and becoming a liaison to the nearest neighborhood C.O.P.S. or S.C.O.P.E. substation. For further information on CFRP, call C.O.P.S. at 625-3301.
THE HEART OF BLOCK WATCH

"Neighbor-to-Neighbor" is the Block Watch motto! Neighbors knowing neighbors is the best tool for fighting property crime. Together, neighbors share information about work and vacation schedules, behaviors, vehicles and other events on their block. While 9-1-1 should be called for emergency or suspicious situations, C.O.P.S. substations and Crime Check (456-2233) can help with non-emergency problems.

PREVENTION WORKS!

Having a Block Watch can help prevent and reduce:
- Residential Burglaries and Break-ins
- Drug/Party Houses
- Gang Activity
- Vandalism
- Malicious Mischief
- Graffiti
- Vehicle Prowling
- Theft

Many such crimes, including increases in crimes against property and vehicle theft, are connected to an increase in drug trafficking/usage and gang activity. The impact such crimes have on the community resources affects us all. Participation in Block Watch fights the isolation and separation that crime creates and feeds upon, it forges bonds among your neighbors, helps reduce burglaries and other crime, and improves relations between the police and the community they serve.

HOW DO YOU START A BLOCK WATCH?

The first important step for the success of any Block Watch is you! Performing your Block Watch duties takes an average of about two hours per year - a small investment for such a great return! Get someone to be your back up for when you are on vacation or just need help.

Determine which houses will be invited to participate in your Block Watch and fill out a telephone tree and neighborhood map. While size and shapes vary, there is no restriction on the number of blocks in a Block Watch. Call your nearest neighborhood C.O.P.S. Shop for crime prevention materials and techniques to share with your neighbors.

A good time to share this material is when you speak to your neighbors to get their contact information. To be an official Block Watch, your information must be registered at a neighborhood C.O.P.S. Shop. While not required, you may want to have a Block Watch meeting. Stay flexible in picking a meeting location and topics. Encourage all homeowners and renters to participate!

THE BLOCK WATCH CONNECTION

C.O.P.S. Block Watch represents an important grassroots connection to community crime prevention, emergency services and other resources, including: Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs), Neighborhood Observation Patrol (N.O.P.), Operation ID, Operation Family ID, Graffiti Reporting Teams, Bicycle Registration, Property Pick-up, Crime Free Rental Property (CFRP), Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), National Night Out.

Operation ID is an important Block Watch connection. Engravers and instructions for keeping records are available at each C.O.P.S. Shop. Engraving your property can help:
- Reduce the chances of becoming a burglary victim.
- Discourage fencing of stolen property.
- Assist in its recovery and return.
- Provide evidence in the arrest and conviction of the burglar.