HOW TO REPORT

The Police Department needs to have accurate information as quickly as possible about suspicious activity or crimes in progress.

- Call the 911 emergency number.
- Describe the event as briefly as possible. What happened? When, Where, and How? Who did it?
- Tell if the crime is in progress or has already occurred.
- Describe the suspect - sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, speaking accent, etc...
- Describe the vehicle involved -color, make, model, year, license plate number, any noticeable damage, and direction of travel.

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME

Neighborhood Watch

Crime Prevention

Watching Out, Helping Out

WALCOTT POLICE DEPARTMENT IOWA

Walcott Police Department

128 W. Lincoln Street
Walcott, Iowa 52773

Emergency 911 or
(319) 326-8628
Non-Emergency (319) 284-6672
FAX (319) 284-6639

HOW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKS

Neighborhood Watch operates to educate participants in the principles of deterrence, delay and detection. The program depends on a communication network organized with three levels of participants - the resident, block captains and co-captains, and a local law enforcement representative.

Vigilante actions are in no way condoned by the Neighborhood Watch program. No one is asked to take personal risks or be a hero.

ORGANIZING A PROGRAM

- Visit your neighbors and tell them you are interested in discouraging crime in the neighborhood. Ask for help toward this goal.
- Organize a neighborhood meeting. Contact the Crime Prevention Unit to address the group and be present to answer questions.
- If the group decides to organize a Neighborhood Watch program, block captains and co-captains should be elected.
- Block captains should prepare a watch map listing names, addresses, telephone numbers and license plate numbers and vehicle descriptions for each residence in their block. Copies should be distributed to each household.
- The Walcott police department has crime prevention officers available to perform a security survey on each residence in the neighborhood. Participation in Operation I.D. is encouraged. Signs & erections of signs will be discussed at the meetings.

PROGRAM DUTIES

Since awareness and involvement are the keys to a successful program, keeping interest high and continuing the group's crime prevention education must be a primary focus of all participants. Special duties include:

BLOCK CAPTAIN/CO-CAPTAIN

- Schedule periodic group meetings (at least every six months), and encourage each homeowner to attend.
- Act as a liaison between homeowners and police.
- Invite your crime prevention officer to address the group on such topics as home security, rape prevention, child molestation, and crimes against the elderly.
- Coordinate home security surveys and Operation I.D.
- Contact new neighbors about the program.
- Keep the watch map data current.
- Disseminate any special information to the group such as crime patterns in the area, homeowners that are on vacation, or attending a function listed in the newspaper such as a wedding or funeral.

RESIDENT

- Attend the program meetings.
- Secure your home and personal property. Follow the recommendations from the security survey and participate in Operation I.D.
- Be alert to suspicious activity and report it immediately.
- Inform your neighbors and block captain if you plan to be away so that special attention can be given to your home.

Neighborhood Watch is a proven crime reduction program. But, like any self-help activity, its success depends upon you and your neighborhood.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

An important responsibility of Watchers is to report anything suspicious to the Police Department.

- Someone running from a car or home.
- Someone screaming. If you can't determine what the screams are for, call the police and report it.
- Someone going door to door or looking into windows or parked cars.
- A person who seems to have no purpose wandering in the neighborhood.
- A suspicious vehicle slowly cruising the block with no apparent destination.
- Business transactions conducted from a vehicle (drug deal).
- A stranger in a car stopping to beckon to a child.
- A child resisting the advances of an adult.