

Question of the Month

Question:

Why should I start a Neighborhood Watch?

Answer:

A Neighborhood Watch is essential in community policing and establishing connections among neighbors to help create and keep neighborhoods safe and pleasant areas to live.



- First off, contact the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) Crime Prevention Office at (505) 244-6644. The Crime Prevention Office will send you a starter packet.
- You will need to visit neighbors on your block to get their contact information and determine if they are interested in participating. Note: at least 50% of the homes on the block must be represented)
- Next, you send this information back to the Crime Prevention Office, and they will then contact you to set up a date, time and location - usually your house - for the initial Neighborhood Watch meeting.
- The Crime Prevention Office will also invite your neighbors on the block who signed up to be part of the Watch.
- Fliers will be sent to your home, so you can distribute them personally on your block.
- The Crime Prevention Office will conduct the meeting and provide a variety of safety and security information, and will facilitate selection of a Block Captain. The Block Captain represents the block and serves as point of contact for APD.
- The Block Captain is responsible for contacting new neighbors, and for providing updated information to the Crime Prevention Office, such as Block Captain replacements, etc.
- Your block is now considered organized, and can collectively purchase Neighborhoods Organized Against Crime (NOAC) signs for your street. Your Block Captain can order them through the Crime Prevention Office.
- Your Block Captain is also eligible to join the Albuquerque Block Captains Association (ABCA).
- Best of all, your block can officially participate in the annual National Night Out celebration held the first Tuesday in August each year!

To learn more about forming a Neighborhood Watch, call the Crime Prevention Office at (505) 244-6644 or visit: www.cabq.gov/police