

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Look out for the following activities when you become a watch member:

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking into windows of homes and parked cars.
- Property being taken from homes that are vacant, for sale, or where the owners are not home.
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without headlights on after dark.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.

Report these incidents to law enforcement. Talk about concerns and problems with your neighbors.

How do I report these incidents?

- Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Explain what happened.
- Note suspect description: height, weight, hair color, race, age, clothing, distinctive characteristics like a beard, mustache, scars, tattoos, or accent.
- Note vehicle description: color, make, model, year, license plate. List any special features such as bumper stickers, shiny rims, or body damage.

CONTACT US

For more information on this and other department services, contact:

**Flathead County Sheriff's Office
Community Resource Unit
406.758.5602**

Or

Visit our website at www.flatheadcountysheriff.com

- Programs and Services
- Local crime mapping
- Crime prevention tips
- And more.....



Flathead County Sheriff's Office

Community Watch



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What is Community Watch?

Whether it's called Community, Block Watch, Town Watch, Building Watch, or Crime Watch, it's one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. It forges bonds among residents and helps reduce burglaries and robberies.

Criminals count on neighbors not knowing one another or just not wanting to get involved. Community Watch improves the relationship between law enforcement and the community they serve.

Why are they needed?

They work! Throughout the country, dramatic decreases in burglaries and related offenses are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active programs.

With today's transient society producing communities that are less personal, along with more parents having to work and children being involved in after-school activities, an empty home is a good target for thieves. Community Watch also builds pride and ownership in communities.

How does it work?

A motivated individual, a few concerned citizens, or a community organization can spearhead the efforts to establish a Community Watch. They will:

- Organize a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss needs, the level of community interest, and possible problem areas.
- Hold an initial meeting to gauge a community's interest, establish the purpose of the program, and then begin to identify community issues that need to be addressed.
- Contact local law enforcement for help in training members in home security and reporting skills and for information on local crime patterns.
- Select an area leader (optional).
- Recruit block leaders who are responsible for relaying information to area members.
- Recruit members, keep up-to-date information on new residents and make special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents and children.



What does a Community Watch do?

It's neighbors helping neighbors. They are the extra eyes and ears for crime reporting that protect your home and family. Members get to meet the people in the community that they may have otherwise not met. Members also learn how to make their homes safer and more secure.

Who can be involved?

Any community resident can join regardless of age, marital status or ownership status. Even the busiest of people can belong and contribute. They can keep an eye out for suspicious activity as they come and go.

What are my responsibilities as a member?

- Be alert! You know your neighborhood better than anyone. Know your neighbors and watch out for one another. Report suspicious activities and crimes to law enforcement.

If you're interested in starting a Community Watch please call the Sheriff's Community Resource Unit at 406.758.5602 or get more information at www.flatheadcountysheriff.com