

**Some "Not-So-Obvious" Things To Watch For:**

- Someone going door-to-door in your neighborhood
- One or more juveniles walking casually through the neighborhood looking into automobiles, backyards, etc.
- Anyone forcing entrance to, or tampering with a residence, business or vehicle.
- A person running, especially if carrying something of value.
- Someone carrying property.
- Excessive foot and or vehicle traffic to and from a certain residence.
- Any persons taking a shortcut through a backyard.
- Any vehicle moving slowly and without lights or following a course that appears aimless or repetitive in any location: But particularly so in areas of schools, parks and playgrounds.
- Parked, occupied vehicles containing one or more persons.
- Vehicles being loaded with valuables if parked in front of a closed business.
- Apparent business transactions conducted from a vehicle.
- Persons being forced into vehicles.
- An abandoned vehicle parked on your block.
- Continuous repair operations at non-business locations.

- Open or broken doors or windows at a closed business or residence.
- A beam from a flashlight in a neighbor's home.
- Persons wearing or carrying bloody clothing.
- Persons making a quick change of vehicles.

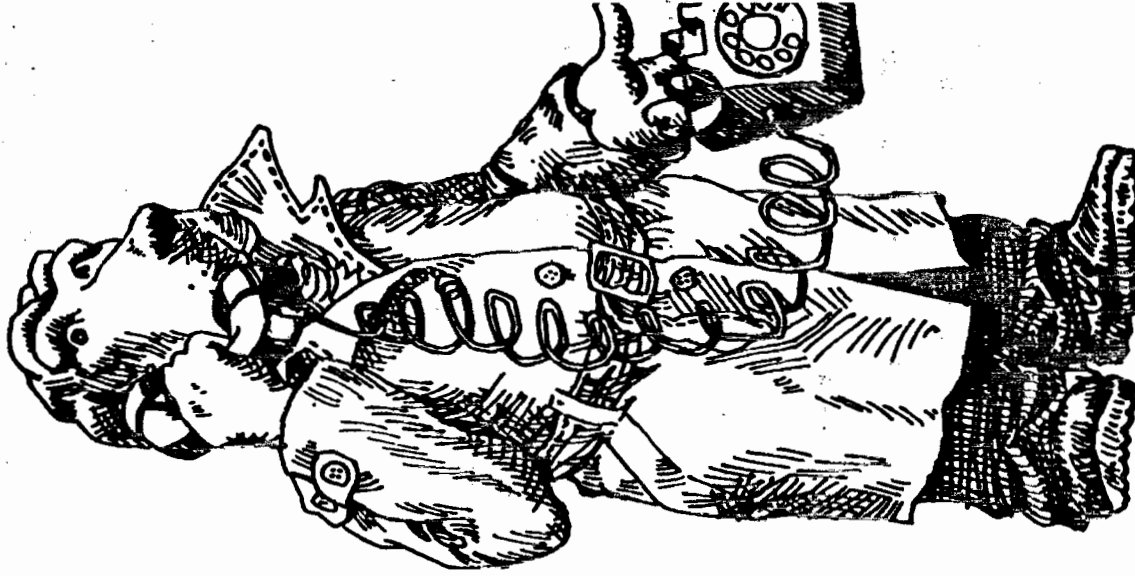
*Crime Prevention tips from:*

The National Crime Prevention Council  
1700 K Street, NW  
Second Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20006-3817



A program of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. For information or additional copies, contact your local police department or the Commission on Crime and Delinquency at (717) 787-1777 or Toll-Free (800) 692-7292. P.O. Box 1167, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1167

# TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME



© 1979 The Advertising Council, Inc.

# BLOCK WATCH

### **What Is The Block Watch Program?**

- a joint effort between law enforcement and the community
- a program designed to enhance neighborhood security
- organized to heighten community observation
- a total effort to encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors

### **Who Needs Block Watch?**

- the modern growing community in which there is more privacy, less familiarity.
- This condition increases a community's vulnerability to crime, and in turn it calls for a relationship that will tighten security and provide for mutual support and cooperation amongst community members

### **What are the Block Watch Objectives?**

#### **To Reduce The Incidence of Crime By:**

- increasing citizens' awareness of neighborhood crime through a continuing information process
- teaching citizens the means to more effective property security
- assisting citizens in the development of a neighborhood action program where mutual aid is the key
- educating citizens so they will recognize and report suspicious activity in their community

- encouraging an effective working relationship between law enforcement and the organized community

### **How Can You Start A Block Watch Program in Your Neighborhood**

- **contact your law enforcement agency**
- **Designate A Block Captain and Co-Captain who will**
  - host a neighborhood block watch meeting
  - personally visit each home on the block, distributing information and announcing the meeting
  - act as the coordinator for Operation ID
  - encourage the block watch goal — 100% participation
  - act as a liaison with the local Law Enforcement Agency
- **Encourage Block Watchers To:**
  - act as "eyes" and "ears" for your neighbors and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement
  - study all crime prevention material available in program
  - check neighbor's homes when they are out of town
  - cooperate with and assist the block captain
  - secure their homes in compliance with recommendations from the crime prevention officer
  - participate in Operation ID

### **How Can We All Be Better Block Watchers?**

#### **By Becoming Aware of Actions and Activities Around Us.**

#### **Some "Obvious" Things To Watch For**

- Basically, anything that seems even slightly "out of place" or that is occurring at an unusual time of day could be criminal activity. Some of the most obvious things to watch for and report include:
- A stranger entering your neighbor's house when it is unoccupied, may be a burglar.
  - A scream heard anywhere may mean robbery or assault.
  - Offers of merchandise at ridiculous low prices could mean stolen property.
  - Anyone removing accessories, license plates or gas from a car should be reported.
  - Anyone peering into parked cars may be looking for a car to steal or for valuables left displayed in the car.
  - Persons entering or leaving a business place after hours could mean burglars.
  - A sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noises could mean an accident, burglary, or vandalism.
  - Persons loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas or in the neighborhood could be sex offenders.
  - Persons around the neighborhood who do not live there could be burglars.