

Don't be a victim, be a volunteer

Perhaps you can recall a TV commercial for a brand of oil filter that warned, "You can pay me now, or you can pay me later." The same concept can be applied to crime. Consider the following direct and indirect costs:

- Property loss and personal injury
- More tax dollars spent for increased law enforcement and legal costs
- Higher prices for products and services due to business theft and related expenses

How can we lower the cost of crime?

Reducing the number of crimes committed is the simplest way to cut the cost of crime. One of the most effective crime prevention programs in the United States is neighborhood Crime Watch.

Participation in Crime Watch requires only that you volunteer a small amount of your time. By maintaining a commitment to prevent crime in your neighborhood, you reduce the risk of paying a higher price later as a victim. The key to success is to keep Crime Watch members committed over time.

Benefits of Crime Watch

- In neighborhoods with Crime Watch, criminal activity has decreased, and in some cases, has been stopped altogether.
- Reducing crime helps improve neighborhoods, prevent decline, and protect property values.
- Apartment complexes, businesses, and schools can participate in Crime Watch.
- Crime Watch groups can identify community resources and address neighborhood concerns.



FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION

Crime Prevention Begins with You

- Call the Fort Worth Police Department to request a free home security evaluation.
- Organize and participate in Neighborhood Crime Watch or Citizens on Patrol -Code Blue.



- Mark your property with your driver's license number, following this example: TX00000000DL.

For more information, call the Crime Prevention Specialist serving your area:

Central Division: 817-392-3997

East Division: 817-980-8441

North Division: 682-225-0517

Northwest Division: 817-392-3537

South Division: 817-392-3405

West Division: 817-991-8476



The Fort Worth Police Department is just one of the many services provided by the City of Fort Worth. To find out more about city services, visit fortworthtexas.gov.

Preventing Crime Begins With You



Join Neighborhood
Crime Watch

Emergency 911

Non-emergency 817-392-4222



How Crime Watch works

A Crime Watch group typically covers one city block. Each group has a block captain and an alternate. Members meet periodically and work with police to reduce crime by:

- Watching each other's homes, businesses and apartments
- Learning ways to increase personal safety and security of property
- Reporting suspicious persons and activities to police

When residents make it harder for criminals to victimize them, fewer crimes are likely to be committed. That translates into lowering the cost of crime for everyone!

Getting started

- Anyone who wants to organize a Crime Watch should contact all residents on their block to determine who wants to participate.
- If enough residents are interested, the organizer should contact the police department to receive Crime Watch training.
- The Block Captain and alternate attend a Block Captain training explaining the Crime Watch program.
- Block residents meet with the captains to get acquainted and organized.

For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Specialist servicing your area.

**Working together to build
a strong community**

Home security survey

The following checklist can help you assess the security of your home and identify weaknesses that can make your home an "easy target" for criminals.

From the curb

1. Are house numbers visible from the street for emergency services such as police, fire and ambulance?
2. Does the overall appearance of your home give criminals information about you and your family that would assist them in victimizing you?
3. Don't let mail or newspapers accumulate.
4. Don't leave outdoor lighting on continuously when you're away.
5. Don't leave garage doors open at anytime.
6. Are all fence gates padlocked to make it more difficult for strangers to enter your yard?

Landscaping

1. Are shrubs and trees trimmed to give a clear view of your home from neighboring residences?
2. Are shrubs and trees trimmed to avoid concealing intruders, especially near doors and windows?

Outdoor lighting

1. Do you have only decorative lighting, or lighting only at front and back doors?
2. Do you have true security lighting operated by an electric eye or timer, that provides your home with a perimeter of light?

Garage doors

1. Are overhead garage doors fitted with an interior locking device, blocking the track, as well as an outside locking device?
2. Do windows on the garage door prohibit viewing the interior of the garage from the outside by use of curtains or film?
3. Is the garage door closed at all times?

Windows

1. Are wooden windows pinned on both sides from the inside?
2. Are aluminum windows fitted with secondary locking devices, easily removed in case of fire?

External doors

1. Are all external doors either metal, solid wood, solid wood frame or solid core construction?
2. Are door frames strong and tight enough to withstand some degree of force?
3. Are doors with outside exposed hinges pinned to prevent easy removal from outside?
4. Are all external doors equipped with deadbolt locks which have a minimum one-inch throw?
5. Are the strike plates installed with three-to-four-inch screws which are well anchored into the two-by-four inch stud behind the door frame?
6. Are sliding glass doors pinned to prevent being pried open? Is the upper track secured with large pan head screws to prevent lifting?
7. Are French or double doors fitted with flush bolts at the top and bottom edge of the inactive door?
8. If there is a door leading from the garage to the interior of the home, is it as secure as an external door?