

## WHAT IS BLOCKWATCH

- Block Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Block Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between the police and the communities they serve.

## WHY BLOCKWATCH

- It works. Throughout the country dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active Block Watch programs.

- Today's transient society produces communities that are less personal. Many families have two working parents and children involved in many activities that keep them away from home. An empty house in a neighborhood where none of the neighbors know the owner is a prime target for burglary.

- Block Watch also helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns such as recreation for youth, child care, and affordable housing.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### **Grays Harbor County Dispatch:**

**Emergency dial: 9-1-1**

**Non-Emergency dial:  
(360)533-8765**

### **Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office (360)249-3711**

**Poison Center  
1-800-222-1222**

**Suicide Prevention  
1-800-275-8255**

**Runaway Hotline  
1-800-786-2929**

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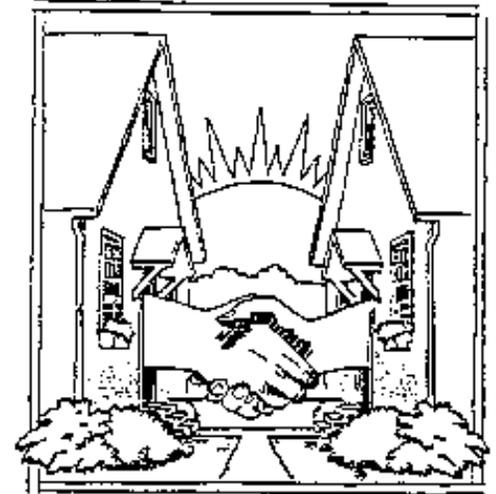
### **GRAYS HARBOR BLOCKWATCH PROGRAM**

DIVISION(S) \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR DIVISION REPRESENTATIVE IS \_\_\_\_\_

DIVISION REP. CONTACT INFO \_\_\_\_\_

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*Join Together and Take  
a Stand Against Crime*

Visit Grays Harbor County Sheriff's  
Office website for more information:

[www.co.grays-  
harbor.wa.us/info/sheriff/index.htm](http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/sheriff/index.htm)

## Block Watch Basics...

The goal of Block Watch is to reduce crime by:

*-Educating the Community-*

*-Increasing Reporting-*

*-Improving Communication Amongst Neighbors-*

*-Improving Communication Between Neighborhood Groups And The Police-*

## HOW TO GET STARTED

- Request a Block Watch information packet from the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Department.
- Determine Block Watch Division areas to be included. Get maps, names and addresses for division properties.
- Select a Block Watch Manager and Division Representatives who serve as Contacts for each Division.
- Block Representative(s) meet to organize the initial program.
  - Determine which Divisions are to be included for each Block Watch area.

- Select and engage team(s) to canvass the involved area(s) for members.
- Set up telephone tree.
- Select and create Block Watch informational packet for potential members.
- Set first meeting for the general membership.

When the telephone tree is completed and Division Representatives are established:

- Make sure everyone understands how/when to use the telephone tree.
- Make sure everyone knows how/when to call 9-1-1 or the non-emergency line.
- Make sure there are no "holes" in the Watch areas.
- Make sure everyone has been given the Block Watch informational handbook and understands how to disseminate information to division community.
- Identify any special safety problems in the area(s).
- Arrange for a "trial run" of your telephone tree.
- After the preliminary set-up work is finished and you've tested your phone tree, contact Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office to arrange for installation of Block Watch signs, getting Block Watch stickers for members, and sharing any special problem projects that have been identified.
- After the Block Watch program has been established, attend meetings to educate the community on the Block Watch Program, e.g. Maintenance Board, Booster Club, Fire

Department, social gatherings (picnics). Plan to have Block Watch meetings on a regular basis or as needed. Use a practice run of your telephone tree to remind members of the meeting.

- Division Representatives are responsible for keeping the telephone tree current.

## How to participate in Operation I.D.

- Use an electric engraving tool or other device to mark all articles of value, especially those most likely to be stolen: i.e. stereos, TV's, VCR's, tools, appliances, etc...
- Record all marked property on an inventory list.
- Photograph or videotape all property that should not be marked, as well as all marked property.
- Display Operation ID warning stickers in your windows to advertise that you have marked your property. (Note: You will not receive Operation ID stickers/signs until you show that your property has been marked and recorded).



**Questions? Contact Chief Criminal Deputy Steve Shumate at 360-964-1738 or email: [sshumate@co.grays-harbor.wa.us](mailto:sshumate@co.grays-harbor.wa.us)**