

Neighborhood Watch programs have been implemented all over the country. They are proven to be one of the most effective deterrents to crime.



## Neighborhood Watch Street Signs

Many groups want Neighborhood Watch street signs. To be eligible, you must organize your neighborhood watch group through SAFE. Your group must meet the following requirements:

- The Neighborhood Watch group must be ongoing and meet at least four times per year.
- The group must complete the provided application and send it to SAFE, accompanied by the installation charge.

## Organizing in other Environments

Many of us spend our time in other places where we are concerned for our safety. Versions of Neighborhood Watch can be organized in all types of communities such as business districts, schools, workplaces, or recreation centers. Wherever you or your loved ones spend time, plans can be made to make it a safer environment. For more information, call us at (415) 553-1984.

San Francisco SAFE, Inc. (Safety Awareness for Everyone) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that works in partnership with the San Francisco Police Department. SAFE provides services such as Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch organizing, Home and Business Security Surveys, Personal Safety presentations for all ages, and other crime prevention, public safety and community policing activities. The staff is multicultural and multilingual and works in all neighborhoods of San Francisco.



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# How to Organize a SAFE Neighborhood



## Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

**Neighbors that know each other are more likely to look out for each other and are more likely to observe and report suspicious activities! Here are a few of the many benefits to working together as a neighborhood watch group:**

1. Increase awareness of crime and public safety issues that impact you, your family and your neighbors.
2. Meet your neighbors and establish a communications network.
3. Work collectively to address crime and public safety concerns.
4. Learn how to access resources that will support your crime prevention efforts.
5. Reduce the risk of crime and victimization on your block and in your community.
6. Working together, you can take action with the power and safety of numbers behind you.
7. Get to know your neighbors and develop a more united, concerned and involved community.

Once your Neighborhood Watch group is formed, you also receive these benefits:

- Attend quarterly SAFE Neighborhood Watch Block Captain & Leaders meetings to share information and become part of a citywide network that advocates for safer neighborhoods
- Apply for a Neighborhood Watch Sign
- Utilize SAFE for future consultations and trainings

The San Francisco Police Department encourages Neighborhood Watch organizing because they cannot be everywhere. They depend on the community to be their eyes and ears and to call them when suspicious activity occurs. They need the community's direction to learn what problems they should address. Community crime prevention must be a partnership – neighbors, law enforcement and public and private agencies must work together.

## How to Get Started

### Step One:

Recruit two or three of your neighbors on your block to form a Planning Committee.

### Step Two:

Contact SAFE at (415) 553-1984 or [info@sfsafe.org](mailto:info@sfsafe.org) to assist with the organizing process and set priorities for problem-solving.

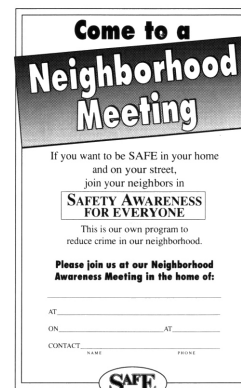
### Step Three:

The Planning Committee meets with a SAFE representative to:

- Discuss SAFE's role in forming and facilitating the Neighborhood Watch Group
- Identify public safety issues and concerns
- Assign tasks, plan meeting agenda and identify next steps
- Schedule first Neighborhood Watch meeting
- Create meeting notification system and how to recruit other neighbors

Personal contact with your neighbors is usually the most effective outreach strategy. At the planning meeting you can also discuss what geographic area will be covered and how to distribute invitations. Usually Neighborhood Watch groups will include people who live or work on both sides of one block (e.g. everyone with an address on the 400 block of Main Street). However, your group might include people who live on adjacent blocks, neighbors along back yards, and residents of large apartment buildings and public housing complexes.

Your SAFE representative can provide you with brochures and sample flyers. These are available in a number of languages. Communication can occur among neighbors who speak different languages with the help of translators.



## How Neighborhood Watch Works

Your SAFE representative will meet with your group for the first four to five meetings, acting as the facilitator – leading discussion, providing information and encouraging involvement. In these initial meetings, the participants will get to know each other, discuss neighborhood concerns, learn protection strategies for themselves and their property, develop a block map and communication tree, meet district police officers and develop lines of communication with police. Together you will begin to solve neighborhood concerns.

### Sample Block Map

573-0955 LOPEZ 241	573-4569 FONG 243	573-5482 NEIL 247	573-3957 ROSEN 249
<b>YOUR STREET</b>			
573-2343 GUZMAN 240	573-9822 DeLUCCI 242	573-1174 NGUYEN 244	573-2989 O'CONNOR 246

The initial meetings will usually be monthly. After the group has developed an organizational structure and crime prevention strategies are implemented, SAFE will step back, but will remain available for consultation. A Block Captain and Co-Captain are also determined by the last meeting. The group may then choose to meet less frequently, but we recommend that you plan meetings or activities at least four times a year.

### Invite Guest Speakers to your Meetings:

SFPD	Mayor's Office
Emergency Preparedness	9-1-1 Call Center

### Take a Class Together:

Self Defense	NERT	First Aid / CPR
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### Organize a Day to:

Clean up the local park	Paint out graffiti
Volunteer for a local charity	Hold a block party

There are many other possibilities; the important thing is to keep neighbors connected and provide a forum for information and communication. Don't forget to have fun, focus on the positive attributes of the neighborhood and acknowledge your accomplishments.