



**City of Hoover  
Police Department**

100 Municipal Lane  
Hoover, AL 35216  
TELEPHONE (205) 444-7700  
FAX (205) 444-7734

**Nicholas C. Derzis**  
*Chief of Police*

## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

### **WHY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?**

As part of the community, the Hoover Police Department plays an important role in keeping the community safe. However, there cannot be an Officer on every corner, so citizen involvement is essential to combat crime.

You and your neighbors are the ones who really know what is going on in your community. By cooperating with each other and Law Enforcement, citizens can help fight crime in their neighborhood in the most effective way: **BEFORE** it begins.

Neighborhood Watch Groups are able to post "Neighborhood Watch" signs on their street, warning criminals that they are in an **ACTIVE** Neighborhood Watch community, and that "neighbors are watching out for each other."

### **WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?**

An active Neighborhood Watch (NW) is one of the most successful and least costly crime prevention programs available. NW is a cooperative effort between the Hoover Police Department and its citizens. It is designed to help reduce residential burglaries and other crimes. You will learn how to:

- Identify and report suspicious activity
- Better safeguard your home and property
- Be prepared in case of emergencies
- Reduce the risk of being a crime Victim. And much more!

Some of the free services available to active NW groups:

- Police Calls for Service in your neighborhood (crime statistics/data)
- Crime Prevention literature/training
- Speaker(s) on a variety of topics
- Hoover Police Department Neighborhood Watch Sign for the community
- Increased Communication with the Police Department
- The chance to actually meet and get to know your Neighbors!





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By working with your neighbors and HPD, you can make a difference and help fight crime in the most effective way: before it begins! Although HPD provides guidance in organizing a NW group, community volunteers (such as you) actually run the program. That way, you can tailor the program to your own neighborhood's unique character.

### HOW DO I START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN MY AREA?

- Step One: Talk to your neighbors and encourage them to participate in a NW program.
- Step Two: Plan your meeting: determine the best possible date/time/location to hold it.
- Step Three: To schedule a NW meeting, call the Crime Prevention Officer **at least two weeks in advance.**
- Step Four: Publicize your meeting. Print flyers/invitations, send emails, post on Social Media.

### HOW DO I KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ACTIVE?

It takes more than one person to keep a NW active and successful. Once a Watch is established in your area, members are encouraged to watch out for one another, target harden their homes, and **hold regular meetings neighborhood events at least once a year.** This way, everyone can keep up to date on current crime trends and continue to build a sense of community.





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**HERE ARE SOME COMMONLY HELD BELIEFS, THE REALITY BEHIND THOSE BELIEFS, AND HOW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CAN HELP YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS:**

**“Crime is not a problem in our neighborhood.”**

This may or may not be true; however, because there is usually a lack of communication among neighbors, most people don't know what is ACTUALLY occurring in their own community.

Neighborhood Watch encourages neighbors to talk to each other. At NW meetings, a Crime Prevention Specialist will provide group members with local crime statistics.

**“If someone really wants to break in, they will.”**

This is probably true; however, most burglars will choose the easiest target, such as a house with an unlocked door or open window.

Neighborhood Watch group members will learn how to target harden their homes. A Crime Prevention Officer can provide members with a Home Security Checklist, and assist them with a security survey.

**“What if I call the Police Department and nothing's wrong?”**

So you may be a little embarrassed; however, what if your instincts were right? You could have prevented a burglary or something much more severe from occurring.

NW teaches members how to identify and report suspicious persons, vehicles, activity and crime.

**WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET STARTED TODAY!**

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Officer Brian Hale  
Crime Prevention Specialist  
(205) 739-6050  
haleb@ci.hoover.al.us

