

Neighborhood Watch Dogs Program



In Partnership with the
Columbia Valley Community

Neighborhood Watch Program

Dear Resident(s):

We would like to thank you for your interest in our Neighborhood Watch Program. We truly appreciate your willingness to help keep our neighborhoods safe and clean! We consider this positive in the sense that citizens, like yourself and the police department, have a sincere interest in maintaining a community that is safe, orderly, and that maintains a high quality of life for our residents.

Neighborhood Watch programs are a practiced concept of neighbors looking out for one another, working hand in hand with the local police, and sending the message to potential criminals that the eyes of residents are actively keeping watch for suspicious and criminal activity. As a resident of the Columbia Valley, you are in a perfect position to take appropriate action and be the eyes and ears of your neighborhood.

We look forward to a positive, preventative and proactive partnership with a common goal - keeping our neighborhoods safe and clean and building a strong community of involved citizens who care deeply for the place they call home.

Sincerely,

Neighborhood Watch Dogs Leadership Team

CONTENTS

WELCOME LETTER	2
GOAL OF NEIGHBORHOOD	4
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SAFETY GUIDELINES	4
ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES IN NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH	4
PRACTICE THE “GOOD NEIGHBOR” POLICY	6
SECURING YOUR HOME	6
REPORTING SUSPICIOUS OR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY	7
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	7-8
FORMS	10
RESOURCES	11

What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a program that encourages neighbors to get to know each other and work together to prevent crime; it involves citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods, citizens and police working together against crime, and citizens working with each other during emergencies to help one another.

Goal of the Neighborhood Watch Dogs

The goal of the Neighborhood Watch Dogs is to deter or reduce criminal behavior and social disorder through community involvement, preventative education and partnerships. The group is made up of community volunteers working to build a stronger community, and to provide a clean, safe environment for the families that live in the Columbia Valley area.

Neighborhood Watch Safety Guidelines

Neighborhood Watch does not grant citizens authority to carry out the law. Citizens become extra eyes and ears; do not attempt to carry out street justice! Do not put yourself in danger; call the POLICE!

Organizing a Watch Group in your neighborhood

1. The Watch Dogs meet monthly the second Tuesday of each month. To receive an invitation and be added to the list of members; contact the Watch Dogs Leadership at: nwmaplefalls@gmail.com and give them your contact information, name, street, email address. A representative will contact you.
2. Join our Facebook page: "Neighborhood Watch Dogs Group" and send an email. Our Facebook site is private and all requests are reviewed carefully before approved to maintain security of our members. Meetings are announced on our FB page each month.
3. Visit our webpage: <https://neighborhoodwatchdogs.godaddysites.com>
4. Solicit residents in your defined area to become actively involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program and work with the Leadership team to organize patrols, events and clean ups in your neighborhood as needed.

Roles and Responsibilities in Neighborhood Watch

1. Leadership Committee

- The leadership committee works together to provide administrative support, oversight and organization of meetings and social media platforms. The leadership committee members meet monthly to discuss current events, concerns and patterns in the area. They coordinate with outside organizations to provide training and direction for the community volunteers. They may consist of Block Captains, Events Coordinators, Secretary and other positions within the Neighborhood Watch Group.

2. Block Captains

- Arrange for meetings and crime prevention in the Watch Group
- Facilitate information received from the police
- Receive and report information from neighbors to the police
- Keep an updated list of residents in their area; phone tree, maps, etc.
- Maintain contact with police
- Attend all monthly meetings

3. Police

- Keep the community informed of crime trends and potential problems
- Regularly attend monthly meetings
- Maintain contact with the block captains
- Inform fellow officers of neighborhood concerns

4. Volunteers

- Attend monthly meetings, attend events, provide support to group
- Provide support to block captains, report all suspicious activity to police and block captains

Building and Maintaining and Active Neighborhood Watch

To build and maintain an active program often requires doing activities to maintain interest. Below are a few suggestions Watch Members can organize to build community and interest:

1. Set up regular meetings, dependent upon neighborhood concerns and needs. Share this information with the membership at the monthly meetings the second Tuesday of each month.
2. Plan quarterly neighborhood events such as a block party, kid's day, BBQ's, neighborhood garage sales, park clean-ups, garbage clean ups, walking groups or other types of neighborhood events.
3. Quickly welcome and get to know new neighbors and invite them to join the group.

A Great Crime Prevention Asset—"Good Neighbor Policy"

Look out for your neighbor by watching their homes, especially when they are away. Become familiar with who belongs and who does not, in terms of both people and vehicles. Tell a trusted neighbor when you plan to be away so they can be watching out for residences, etc. If you see suspicious or criminal activity, call 911 immediately.

Securing your home

You can make your home safer by Target-Hardening or making it difficult for criminals to gain entrance. Look at your home and personal habits as if you were "the criminal." This mindset allows you to notice your vulnerabilities, and what steps you should take to Target-Harden your home. Ask yourself the questions below:

1. Does your home have proper locks on doors and windows?
2. Is there sufficient lighting in and outside of your home?
3. Do you secure your garage door(s) and/or outside buildings?
4. Do you have an alarm system? Is it registered and working properly?
5. Does your family have procedures in place for answering phones and doors?
6. Who is responsible for making sure your home is secure?
7. If an intruder gets in your home, do your family members know what to do?
8. Are shrubbery and trees maintained in order not to provide a hiding place for criminals?

Reporting Suspicious or Criminal Activity

What is suspicious activity? An event is out of the ordinary or one that should not be occurring. When it comes to neighborhoods, knowing your neighbors, their habits, and their household composition makes it easier to recognize and report any suspicious activities occurring in your neighborhood.

If you see suspicious or criminal activity, call 911. Staying calm will help you to better respond to questions asked by the dispatcher. Be prepared to give as much information as possible, including:

- Name, address, and phone number
- Location
- What is happening
- If is a crime or suspected crime
- Description of the suspect and/or suspect's vehicle (if there is one)
- Direction of travel
- License plate number and state

Emergency Preparedness

Another goal of the Neighborhood Watch Program is to make sure people know what to do in case of emergencies, such as floods, power outages, earthquakes,, or any other. Making a plan and communicating with the community about the importance of things such as making and emergency kit, setting up meeting places, knowing evacuation routes, and knowing the natural threats to a community are all important factors that a Neighborhood Block Watch group can help their neighborhood.

First, be sure to set up and **Evacuation Plan**—how can you get out of your house quickly and safely? Identify at least two escape routes from each room and floor, and be sure to practice with your family. The second step is to determine a **Meeting Place** with your family and neighbors. This can be a neighbor's home, a parking lot, a park, or any area that your neighbors will be able to identify and get to. Next, develop **Emergency Contacts**—who needs to participate in the plan, and who to call if you are personally in trouble. Also train young children how to use the phone appropriately.

Emergency Preparedness (cont.)

In order to prepare for an emergency, familiarize yourself with turning off the utilities—power, water, and gas. Also develop an **Emergency Kit**, consisting of water (one gallon, per person, per day), non-perishable food, first aid supplies, manual can opener, toilet paper, personal hygiene items, plastic garbage bags, clothing, sturdy shoes, crank or battery-powered flashlight and radio, batteries, money (in small bills), pet supplies, unscented bleach, important papers, and an emergency contact information list. Other helpful but not necessary items include tents, sleeping bags, camping stove and fuel, eating and cooking utensils, bucket, zip-lock bags, extra eye glasses, rope, tools, information regarding medical devices, duct tape, generator, and fuel. You can also create smaller emergency kits with similar items to keep at work or in the car.



Neighborhood Watch Dogs Non-Emergency Call Check List

IF THERE IS A THREAT CALL 911.

Always allow dispatch to take the lead with their questions. When possible, try to have as much of this information available when calling the non-emergency call center. Knowing in advance that the operators will ask these questions will better prepare you for your call and expedite the process.

Crime Type: _____

Weapon: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Vehicle:

Make: _____ Year: _____

Model: _____ Color: _____

Body: _____

License Plate: _____ State: _____

Anything that stands out (decals or bumper stickers, dings, rust, broken windows, etc.)

Direction of Travel: _____

Suspect: (To determine height use your own height as a point of reference)

Race: _____ Sex: _____ Age: _____

Eye Color: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Build: _____ Hair: _____ Hair Style: _____

Facial Hair: _____

Clothing: (top to bottom):

Anything Unique: (Braces, scars, tattoos, eye glasses, etc.)

Report Date: _____ Time: _____

REGISTRATION FORM

Email: nwmaplefalls@gmail.com

Websites: <https://www.facebook.com/maplefallswa/>

<https://neighborhoodwatchdogs.godaddysites.com/>

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Number of people in your household: _____

Street Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Volunteer Involvement: (check all that apply)

_____ OK to include my contact info in the Neighborhood Directory.

_____ I would like to be included on all newsletters and announcements (email required)

_____ I would like to be contacted about volunteer activities in my area (email required)

_____ I would like to speak to someone about this organization and learn more.

_____ I am interested in clean ups

_____ I am elderly and would like to be checked on during power outages, etc.

I Need Assistance or Resources in the following areas:

My Block Captain's Name is: _____

Neighborhood Watch Dogs Resource List

Email: nwmaplefalls@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/maplefallswa/>

Website: <https://neighborhoodwatchdogs.godaddysites.com>

Resource Name	Non-Emergency Phone	Website or Email
Whatcom County Sheriffs Office	(360)778-6600 M-F 8:30—4:30	Website: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/200/Sheriff Report a crime online: https://www.whatcounty.us/2477/Report-a-crime-Online
Local Sheriff Deputy Jayson Loreen	(360)599-8481	Email: jlloreen@co.whatcom.wa.us
Local Sheriff Deputy Ryan Rathbun	(360)815-4409	Email: rrathbun@whatcomcounty.us
Animal Control	(360)733-2080	Website: https://www.whatcomhumane.org/ Non Emergency and during hours: 10AM-6PM W-Sat, 11AM-5PM Sun & Mon Closed Tuesday
Code Enforcement	(360)778-5900	Web site: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/612/Code-Enforcement Report A Suspected Violation online: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/FormCenter/Planning-Development-Servicces-9/Code-Enforcement-Investigation-Request-141 Report:Noise, weeds, building codes, signs or zoning issues
Columbia Valley Water Dist.	(360)599-1699	Website: http://www.cv-wd.com/home/street-lights/ M,W,F 8AM-12PM, 1PM-4:30PM
Domestic Violence	1-800-799-7233	Website: https://www.thehotline.org/

Resource Name	Non-Emergency Phone	Website or Email
Kendall Elementary School	(360)383-2055	Website: https://www.mtbaker.wednet.edu/o/kendall M-F 8AM-4:30PM
Kendall Fire Department	(360)599-2823	Website: https://wcf14.org
Mount Baker Jr/Sr High School	(360)383-2015	Website: https://www.mtbaker.wednet.edu/o/mbhs
NAMI National Alliance of Mental Illness	1-800-950-6264	Website: https://www.nami.org M-F, 10AM-6PM, ET In a crisis: Text “NAMI” to 741741 for 24/7 help
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-8255	Website: https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/
North Fork Library	(360)305-3600	Website: https://fnfcl.wordpress.com/library-hours/ Closed Sun & Mon, Open Tues—Sat 10AM
Northwest Clean Air Agency	(360)428-1617	Website: https://nwcleanairwa.gov/ M-F 8AM-4:30PM
Poison Control	1-800-222-1222	Website: https://www.wapc.org/
PSE—Puget Sound Energy	1-888-225-5773	Website: https://www.pse.com
East Whatcom Regional Resource Center	(360)599-3944	Website: https://whatcomvolunteer.galaxydigital.com/agency/detail/?agency id=20575 M-F 8:30AM-4:30PM
Interactive Local Map of Columbia Valley		Website: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=19Nmt6LYU-o9O33_R6KuQ3G-sW1nLSDw7&ll=48.96518423312534%2C-122.13541286117905&z=12

Resource Name	Non-Emergency Phone	Website or Email
Public Works	(360)676-6692	Website: https://www.whatcomcounty.us/308/Public-Works Report: Road Issues, Trees down, wash outs, large item pickups along the highway, etc.
Sanitary Services	(360)734-3490	Website: https://www.ssc-inc.com/index.php Answering Service: 24/7 (360)734-2051
Treatment Services	(360)778-5000	Website: https://whatcomcounty.us/864/Treatment-Services
Whatcom County Water District #13	(360)599-1801	Website: http://www.wc wd13.com/contract.html T & Th 9AM—4PM After Hours Emergency: 360-630-0970
Xfinity Comcast	1-800-934-6489 24/7	Website: https://my.xfinity.com/?cid=cust