



Lakewood

Police Department



Lakewood Police Department Neighborhood Watch

Congratulations on taking the first steps to making your neighborhood a safer place. Forming a Neighborhood Watch group is way for individual citizens to partner with their neighbors and the police to accomplish the common goal of reducing crime in their communities. The police need your assistance in acting as our eyes and ears. Our residents are in the best position to recognize what is out of place or suspicious in their neighborhood, and when something suspicious is observed they can call the police for assistance.

Public safety and security are shared responsibilities, and every resident can play a role. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security launched it's, "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign to increase awareness of terrorism, and to encourage reporting of suspicious circumstances. That slogan can easily be applied to Neighborhood Watch. Becoming an expert on your neighborhood is an important step. Learn to recognize your neighbors, their vehicles and when something looks out of place, know who to tell. By being observant and reporting suspicious activity to law enforcement, you can help protect your family, neighbors, and the community.

Neighborhood Watch is a citizen-based program, and the success of every group is based on the commitment of its members. The structure and operation of your group will be determined by the members and can be as simple as creating a contact list of residents or as formal as a group that holds regular meetings or other events. The basics questions to answer are:

1. **How will you organize?**
2. **How will you communicate?**
3. **Will meetings be held (and how often)?**

The Lakewood Police Department welcomes the opportunity to partner with our citizens and stands ready to assist you in developing your Neighborhood Watch Program. To be effective, we must work together as a team.

Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 303-980-7300
Lakewood Police Main Menu: 303-987-7111



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Important Phone Numbers

Emergency	911
Dispatch/Non-Emergency	303-980-7300
Main Phone Tree	303-987-7111
Desk Agent	303-987-7150
Animal Control	303-987-7173
Police Records	303-987-7331
Code Enforcement	303-987-7566
Neighborhood Watch Contact	303-987-7105

Volunteer Email: LPDvolunteercoordinator@lakewoodco.org

Lakewood Police online reporting (non-emergency incidents*):
[https://www.lakewood.org/Government/Departments/Police/
PD-services-permits-registrations/Submit-a-Non-Emergency-
Police-Report](https://www.lakewood.org/Government/Departments/Police/PD-services-permits-registrations/Submit-a-Non-Emergency-Police-Report)

*This reporting form is for non-emergency property crimes and incidents that have occurred within the City of Lakewood. Due to the nature of this type of report, no further investigation is anticipated.



What is Neighborhood Watch?

The Neighborhood Watch Program was created by the National Sheriff's Association in 1972 as a crime prevention initiative focused on residential areas. It is based on empowering community members to take ownership of their neighborhoods and to play an active role in making them safe places to live. To be successful, Neighborhood Watch requires a partnership between the citizens and law enforcement. The Lakewood Police Department recognizes that our personnel cannot be everywhere, and we welcome the assistance of the public.

Prevention-focused community policing has among its goals a cooperative relationship between the police and citizens for the resolution of quality-of-life issues in the community. A key element is to empower citizens to become involved in making their communities safer. The value of Neighborhood Watch groups is they can act as a force multiplier for the police by providing additional eyes and ears in the community, since residents are better able to identify suspicious activity. By observing and reporting, citizens can assist the police in determining where to be, why and when to be there.

Neighborhood Watch has evolved from its inception with advances in technology and social media and has become one of many ways information is exchanged. In many cases, the neighborhood is no longer just where people live, but wherever they happen to be at any given time. If a crime is committed in a public place, chances are it was captured on a doorbell camera or cell phone. The Lakewood Police Department attempts to push information out in a timely matter via social media and other mediums to the citizens providing extra sets of eyes and ears. Citizens are encouraged to become involved in fighting crime when they know what to look for and who to tell about it.

Neighborhood Watch is a citizen-based program where each group determines how they will organize and communicate. Neighborhood Watch is not a vigilante group, and the Lakewood Police Department does not encourage citizens to expose themselves to personal risk to deter crime. Establishing a Neighborhood Watch program is not a guarantee that crime will not occur in your neighborhood.

Forming a Neighborhood Watch Group

Starting a Neighborhood Watch group does not have to be overly complicated. The size of the group is at your discretion and will be based on the number of people interested in being involved. It may be helpful to reach out to neighbors via Facebook, Nextdoor, or by going door-to-door to gauge interest. It will be helpful to explain that you are interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch but cannot do it alone and will need assistance and involvement. Recruit as many neighbors as possible.

Once a group of interested residents is identified, a map of the participating houses in the neighborhood should be completed. This can be accomplished using Google Maps or Nextdoor or by hand. Create a contact list that includes names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers, along with vehicle makes, models and license plate numbers. It may be helpful to identify who has surveillance cameras at their homes in the event a crime occurs.

The best method of communicating with the group will need to be determined (social media, group email, text, etc.) A "Group Captain" and an alternate should take responsibility for maintaining the contact list, organizing communication efforts and meetings (if applicable).

After the group is organized the Group Captain can contact the Lakewood Police Department Volunteer Coordinator to set up an initial Neighborhood Watch meeting. The main objectives of the meeting are to give everyone a chance to meet, get to know each other, and to discuss any current crime-related concerns. Prior to the meeting, the Group Captain should reach out to neighbors and compile a list of concerns they wish to discuss (recent crime trends, home, and personal security, etc.). After the initial meeting, you may meet as often as you like but a Police Department member will only attend one meeting annually.

Keep the contact information up to date, invite new residents when they move in and remove any neighbors when they move out. Watch out for your neighbors and report suspicious behavior, vehicles, and people by calling the Lakewood Police Department at 303-980-7300.

The city will install Neighborhood Watch signs after the initial meeting. Lakewood Traffic Engineering will determine the location where the signs will be posted.

Among the benefits of a Neighborhood Watch group are:

- Partnerships between law enforcement and your neighbors
- Reduction in crime
- A more secure and united community

Neighborhood Watch Activities

In order to maintain a strong and useful Neighborhood Watch group, it is important to find activities to keep your members engaged. By including activities that are fun and help to build community spirit, enthusiasm and active participation can be encouraged. Some suggestions are:



National Night Out (<https://natw.org/>)

On the first Tuesday of every August, the City of Lakewood joins thousands of communities nationwide to celebrate National Night Out. Citizens, businesses, public safety personnel and community leaders come together to communicate with each other and unite against crime. National Night Out promotes strong police-community partnerships, while bringing back a true sense of community. Neighborhoods host block parties, cookouts, and various other community events.



Dog Walker Watch (<https://natw.org/dog-walker-watch/>)

According to the American Pet Products Association, there are over seventy-five million dog owners across the United States. That equates to dozens, if not hundreds of neighbors walking their dogs throughout their communities, at all times of the day, every day of the week. Dog Walker Watch encourages these neighbors to be an extra set of eyes and ears to assist law enforcement while walking their dogs. The program enhances the partnership between police and the community and encourages neighbors to be observant and to report suspicious activity.



Exercise/Walking Group Watch

Many people regularly walk, run or bike through their neighborhoods to improve their physical fitness. Arranging to pursue fitness with neighbors is a way to strengthen ties among residents and provides an opportunity to notice activities beyond the immediate vicinity of your own home. Just walk, run, bike, look around and....



Share Information

The exchange of information is an important aspect of Neighborhood Watch. The development of an email newsletter or Facebook group is a way for neighbors to share information. It is not uncommon for one person to be aware of a suspicious incident and when that information is shared, someone else might have related video footage that can also be shared. As information is shared, it is possible to identify indicators of criminal activity that should be reported to the police. The Lakewood Police Public Information Office regularly posts information on social media (Facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter) about criminal activity in the city. We welcome information from our citizens that can assist with investigations and the reduction of crime in the city.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBORHOOD REGISTRATION FORM

Please provide the information requested for each of the participants in your Neighborhood Watch group using the form below and return it to the Neighborhood Watch Office. Please provide a map of the area covered by the group.

Lakewood Police Department
445 South Allison Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80226

Non-Emergency Police Calls 303-980-7300
Neighborhood Watch Contact 303-987-7105
LPDvolunteercoordinator@lakewoodco.org

NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP CODE	TELEPHONE # Email Address
(Block Captain)			

