

What kind of activity should I be on the lookout for?

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking in windows of houses or cars.
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home or from closed businesses.
- Cars, vans or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.

Report these incidents to the police or sheriff. Talk about concerns and problems with your neighbors.

How should I report these incidents?

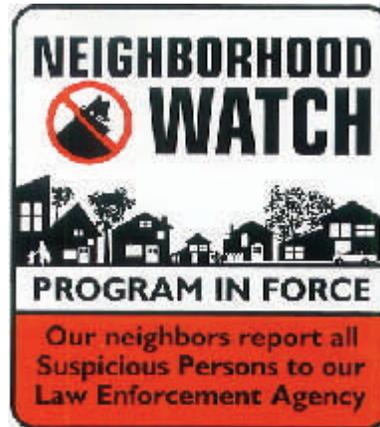
- Call 911 or your local emergency number.
- Give your name and address.
- Explain what happened.
- Briefly describe the suspect: sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, distinctive characteristics such as a beard, mustache, scars or accent.
- Describe the vehicle if one was involved: color, make, model, year, license plate, and special features such as stickers.

**This brochure was adapted from the:
National Crime Prevention Council
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
13th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
Website: www.ncpc.org**

Santa Rosa Police Department

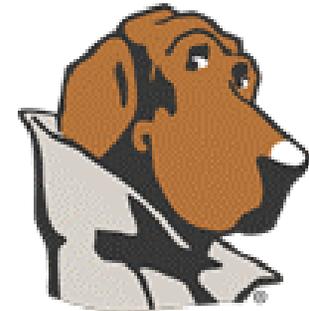
965 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-543-3653
Main Phone: 707-543-3600
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: 707-528-5222
Website: www.santarosapd.com

Free Crime Statistics Online
Website: www.raidsonline.com



Apartment Watch Programs

(707) 543-3653



Apartment Watch Information

Block Watch, Apartment Watch, Town Watch, Building Watch or Crime Watch. Whatever the name, it's one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between police and the communities they serve.

What Does Apartment Watch do?

An Apartment Watch is neighbors helping neighbors. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. Members meet their neighbors, learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activity that raises their suspicions to the police or sheriff.

Why Apartment Watch?

- It works. Dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active Watch programs.
- Apartment Watch also helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns such as recreation for youth, childcare, and affordable housing.

How to Start an Apartment Watch

- Help arrange a meeting with your local police or sheriff for an Apartment Watch presentation and Operation Identification.
- Keep pressure on management to make sure it provides adequate security.

- Organize citizen patrols to walk around the apartment complex and report suspicious activity to the police or sheriff.
- Don't forget to patrol parking lots, carports, stairways, laundry rooms and playgrounds.
- Publish a newsletter that gives local crime news, recognizes Apartment Watch captains and highlights community activities.
- Organize a reception in the lobby of your building or a cookout on common property so neighbors can get to know each other.
- Start a McGruff or Safe House program for children; places where they can go in an emergency or scary situations.
- Check the complex on a regular basis for such problems as burned out light bulbs, dark corridors, uncollected trash, graffiti or broken locks on mailboxes and doors. Report problems to the landlord or building manager.
- Organize meetings to brainstorm how you can help each other, such as starting an escort service for the elderly or after-school care for children.
- Hold problem tenants accountable and report irresponsible behavior to the landlord, building manager, police or sheriff.

Survey Your Apartment

- Does your entry door have a dead bolt lock and a wide angle viewer?
- Does your sliding door have a wooden rod or metal brace in the track so it can't be opened and pins in the overhead frame so it can't be lifted?
- Does the landlord or building manager tightly control all keys?

Survey Your Building

- Is there some kind of control over who enters and leaves the building?
- Are walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms and storage areas well lighted, 24 hours a day?
- Are fire stairs locked from the stairwell side above the ground floor so you can exit but no one can enter?
- Are mailboxes in a well-traveled, well-lighted area and do they have good locks?
- Are things well maintained? Are burned out lights fixed promptly, shrubs trimmed and trash removed?
- Are carports well lighted and can be seen by tenants.

Report all suspicious activity to the police or sheriff and your management company.

Meet Your Neighbors

- Get to know your neighbors.
- Think about a tenant patrol that watches for crime around the building, provides escort services for the elderly and disabled, and monitors the comings and goings in the apartment complex.
- Work with the landlord or building manager to sponsor social events for tenants such as barbecues and family activities (4th of July, National Night Out, Halloween, etc.).
- Look beyond the problems to the root causes.
- Does your building need a better playground or a kid's area, a social evening for teens, a tenant association or new landscaping?
- Work with the landlord or property manager for changes that make everyone proud of where they live.