

# "Uniting Our Communities"



## Spokane County Sheriff's Office and S.C.O.P.E.

### Spokane County Neighborhood Watch

The USA on Watch / National Neighborhood Watch Program was started in 1972 through the National Sheriff's Association with the goal of uniting law enforcement agencies, private organizations and individual citizens in an effort to reduce crime and improve safety.

The Spokane County Neighborhood Watch program was formed in 1979 under the name Block Watch and then became Neighborhood Watch in support of the national program.

Other names used for Block Watch are:

**Town Watch**

**Building Watch**

**Crime Watch**

Neighborhood Watch was created in 1972 to help communities be aware and become about what is going on in their neighborhood.

To begin a Neighborhood Watch group in your neighborhood you will need to talk with your neighbors about coming together for a meeting. The purpose of the meeting is for you and your neighbors to get to know each other and talk about concerns in your area. It is also an opportunity for you and your neighbors to be presented with crime prevention materials and talk more about what you can do to implement the information given.

Generally, a deputy will attend your first Neighborhood Watch meeting to answer any questions that you might have. If you are interested in having any other representative attend, please make sure to let your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator know and they will make every effort to respond to your request.

- Meetings can be held in your home, church, business, community center or park.
- A Neighborhood Watch group is usually comprised of about 10-20 houses or cul-de-sac ( In a home owner's association we encourage small groups to form).
- Neighborhood Watch is all about education, communication and being the eyes and ears for the police.
- Keep each other informed about suspicious activities and crimes in your neighborhood.
- Fill out a Neighborhood Watch Application (this is for the safety of all neighborhood watch members).
- Remind neighbors to report all crime and suspicious activities by calling 9-1-1 or Crime Check.
- Map your neighborhood and include names, addresses, phone numbers and special needs of your neighborhood watch group.

