

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT CRIME IN MY AREA?

The Metro Nashville Police Department has a website that gives you access to interactive crime maps. This allows you to see what crimes are occurring in your neighborhood. To access these maps and crime prevention tips, simply go to [www.police.nashville.org](http://www.police.nashville.org). You can also view [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com) for Crime Alerts are one of the most popular features at CrimeMapping.com. Citizens can register online to receive free e-mail updates whenever new crime activity occurs in a specified area. A person can register multiple times in order to learn about criminal activity near their residence, business, workplace or even their child's school.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

The prevention of crime – particularly crime involving residential neighborhoods – is a responsibility that must be shared equally by law enforcement and private citizens. The fact is, the impact on crime prevention by law enforcement alone is minimal when compared with the power of private citizens working with law enforcement and with each other. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH is based on this concept of cooperation, and nationwide statistics prove that it works. When citizens take positive steps to secure their own property and neighbors learn how to report suspicious activity around their homes, burglary and related offenses decrease dramatically.



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METRO NASHVILLE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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*Introduction to Neighborhood  
Watch*



**SOUTH PRECINCT**

## **WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?**

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Neighborhood Watch (NHW) is a partnership between residents and law enforcement to improve safety and prevent crime.

What you can learn with NHW:

- Who your neighbors are and how to work with them.
- How to use a neighborhood map and roster to communicate.
- How and why crime happens.
- How to improve home security and personal safety.
- How to recognize and report suspicious activity.

Active NHW groups with visible NHW signs can deter crime.

## **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?**

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Anyone who lives in Davidson County can participate in NHW. You may live in an apartment or condominium complex, a townhouse or a single family home.

## **I'M INTERESTED, WHAT'S NEXT?**

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- Contact your neighbors to ask when is the best time to attend a meeting (typically a weekday evening).
- Schedule the meeting. Contact Sgt. Rafael Fernandez at the South Precinct by email or phone to request a police representative.
- Distribute flyers to invite neighbors to the NHW meeting about a week to 10 days before the meeting.
- On the day of the meeting, give your friends a reminder call or flyer to remind them.

## **WHAT HAPPENS AT THE MEETING?**

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A Police representative will discuss:

- Crime in Nashville and your area.
- How and when to contact police.
- NHW program requirements and how and why it works.
- What you can do to make your home more safe and secure.
- What other neighborhoods are doing.

## **WHAT ARE THE NHW REQUIREMENTS?**

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- Schedule and have a NHW meeting.
- Complete a roster of member's names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- Complete a neighborhood map.
- Select the NHW Leader and Block Captains for the group.
- Decide how many signs you want and where to put them.
- Bring a copy of the completed map and roster to Sgt. Fernandez.
- The group must meet at least once a year and maintain a current map and roster.

## **WHAT IS A NHW LEADER?**

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The NHW Leader is a liaison between the NHW group and the police department. They make sure the map and the roster are complete and the NHW signs are installed. They also schedule meetings, maintain a current membership roster, and distribute crime prevention materials when provided by the police department.

## **WHAT ABOUT THE NHW SIGNS?**

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Every official NHW group will be provided 1 free sign from the police department. The sign acts as a crime deterrent by notifying people who enter the area that the neighborhood watch is watching and knows how to contact the police. Additional signs can be purchased by the group and installed by Public Works. Contact Sgt. Fernandez for information about purchasing additional signs.

## **COMMUNICATION AND MEETING TOPICS**

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In addition to the telephone rosters and flyers, Email and fax rosters, websites and newsletters have been used by NHW groups to communicate. While some groups have formal meetings, others prefer to be more relaxed with barbecues and block parties. However they communicate, most groups focus on safety and crime prevention. The police department is a resource that offers brochures and personal presentations on topics such as:

- Personal Safety and Crime Awareness
- Child, Teen or Senior Safety
- Holiday Safety
- Scams or Fraud Schemes

## **TO REQUEST A PRESENTATION CALL SOUTH PRECINCT AT**

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