

## What is Neighborhood Safety Awareness?

Neighborhood Safety Awareness is a program enlisting the participation of citizens in a cooperative effort with law enforcement, to reduce crime and prepare neighborhoods for disasters. It encompasses promoting crime prevention through Neighborhood Watch groups and disaster preparedness through Community Emergency Response Team training.

It involves:

- Neighbors getting to know each other, taking the time to care about each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance.
- Training citizens to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods.
- Citizens implementing crime prevention strategies such as home security and Operation Identification.
- Learning what to do during the first several minutes, hours or days following a disaster and how to minimize injury and property damage.

You may hear it called Neighborhood Watch, Home Alert, Citizens Crime Watch, C.E.R.T. The names differ but the idea is the same.

## Why Neighborhood Awareness?

- There can't be a law enforcement officer, firefighter, paramedic or a disaster worker on every corner, so citizen involvement is essential to combat crime and to deal with disasters.
- You and your neighbors are the ones who really know what is going on in your community.
- By taking a few basic steps you can help preserve life, the environment and property during the early stages of a disaster.
- By cooperating with law enforcement, people can help fight crime in their community in the most effective way, before it happens.

## How Do I Start A Neighborhood Safety Awareness Program?

### *Contact The Belmont Police Department*

- Express an interest in starting a Neighborhood Safety Awareness group and we will assist you in the development of your program.
- Ask to have a law enforcement representative at your first meeting.

### *Talk to your neighbors.*

- Canvas your neighborhood for interest.
- Are there people in your neighborhood with special needs?
- Do any neighbors have tools/equipment that may be of value during a disaster?
- Discuss crime problems in your area that are of concern to you and your neighbors.
- Briefly explain the value of the Neighborhood Safety Awareness program.
- Ask about convenient times to schedule your first Neighborhood Safety Awareness meeting.

### *Arrange a date, time and place for the first meeting.*

- Set the meeting date far enough in advance to give everyone adequate notice.
  - Select a time that is convenient for most neighbors and your Belmont Police Department representative.
  - Develop and distribute a flyer announcing the meeting.

- If possible, meet in your home or the home of a neighbor to foster an informal, comfortable atmosphere.
- Remind everyone of the meeting date as it approaches (two to three days in advance).
- Remember don't be disappointed if everyone cannot attend. One hundred percent neighborhood participation is desirable but is not required for the program to work.

Any member of the Belmont P.D.  
Peer Support Team  
Assist-U Employee Assistance Services  
1-800-750-5595



## Belmont Police Department

## Neighborhood Safety Awareness

*"A Tradition of Service"*

