

# RESOURCES

La Mirada City Hall (562) 943-0131  
City of La Mirada website [www.cityoflamirada.org](http://www.cityoflamirada.org)  
Emergency 911  
La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station (562) 902-2960  
Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 49 (562) 943-5512  
Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 194 (562) 947-6435  
Code Enforcement/Safety Hazards (562) 902-2347  
Public Works (562) 902-2385  
Graffiti Removal (562) 943-1557 & (714) 522-5858  
Animal Control (562) 803-3301  
La Mirada Transit (562) 943-6776  
Southern California Edison (800) 611-1911 (street light repairs)  
Southern California Gas (800) 427-2200

## HOTLINES

California Missing Children (800) 222-3463  
Child Abuse (800) 540-4000  
Elder Abuse (800) 992-1660  
Crisis Intervention (562) 596-5548  
Women's & Children's Crisis Center (562) 945-3939  
Domestic Violence (800) 978-3600  
Rape/Crisis Center (310) 392-8381  
Poison Control (800) 876-4766  
Suicide Prevention (877) 727-4747

## DISASTER ASSISTANCE

American Red Cross (562) 945-3944  
Salvation Army (562) 698-8348



*La Mirada*

CITY OF LA MIRADA • LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF • LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



## Information Guide

Steps to Start a Neighborhood Watch Group



# Information Guide

## Steps to Start a Neighborhood Watch Group

### 1 Organize Volunteers

The first thing you need to do is recruit a few people who want to start a group on your block. The only requirement for the group is that members are committed to improving the neighborhood by working together to make it safe.

If some neighbors do not respond to your efforts, do not assume they are not interested. They may be too busy. Some neighbors may be more isolated and you may have to build relationships before they will attend a meeting. Begin by holding regular meetings with neighbors you know are interested in working together to develop an active Neighborhood Watch group.

### 2 Develop a Neighborhood Map

Define the boundaries for your neighborhood and prepare a simple map that shows the area. The map should be easily understood and provide a basic outline of the houses and other buildings in your neighborhood. The map may be as simple or detailed as you like, and should include symbols for well-known landmarks, unique sites, fire hydrants and other utility services. Identify homes with children, handicapped, or elderly residents. The map will assist the group in pinpointing problem areas or possible sources of criminal activity such as drug dealing, burglary, or vandalism and will facilitate response efforts in emergency situations.

### 3 Establish a Roster

A neighborhood roster should be established and distributed to all members of the group. This information can be extremely important in an emergency and should include the names of family members, addresses, home and cell telephone numbers, and email addresses.

The roster will assist your group in quickly alerting each other of emergency situations. The telephone or email tree may also be used to remind members of meetings and events. You can divide large groups into smaller groups and assign a primary and secondary contact person to each of the smaller groups. When the primary or secondary contact person receives information, it is their responsibility to call the other members of his or her group. This concept may be used to quickly check on homes and families after an earthquake.

### 4 Identify Concerns, Issues, and Problems

Hold a meeting to identify and prioritize concerns, issues, or problems. Some issues may require local law enforcement to implement crime reduction strategies.

After the concerns have been identified and prioritized, the group should

agree upon specific goals with realistic objectives and strategies. A plan of action should be adopted with a means to assess and evaluate its effectiveness.

### 5 Develop Strategies

A strong year-round program is important to keep your group active. Develop and plan activities, meetings, and training programs in advance. Some events should be planned such as potlucks and dessert socials. Other activities may include participating in communitywide training and joining the Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T). Make the program fun, and establish neighborhood traditions such as 4th of July barbeques, National Night Out celebrations, activities or meetings to welcome new neighbors, or similar events. These activities develop supportive relationships within the neighborhood and involve parents, children, and seniors in safety efforts.

Survey participants to determine what their interests are, and develop activities which encourage involvement with the Sheriff's Department. Ask for help in planning and organizing the group. The Sheriff Department will discuss safety and answer any questions.

### 6 Training

Leaders and volunteers should schedule meetings where they can receive training in identifying and reporting suspicious activities, home and personal security, gang and drug activity, preparing for emergencies, reporting code enforcement violations, establishing fire home safety, and First Aid and CPR.

### 7 Action Steps

Your group is ready to recruit new members and take proactive steps to strengthen the community against crime. Begin mentoring new members by undertaking activities such as block meetings, neighborhood patrols, clean-up days, and code assessments. Organize activities so neighbors can meet each other and get comfortable to work together to keep the neighborhood safe. Plan activities for the neighborhood children to have fun and get involved. Use the internet to distribute information in a timely and efficient manner. Contact Public Safety to invite personnel who will be able to assist you and tell you more about working together to prevent crime in your neighborhood.

### 8 City Resources

A list of resources is provided on the following page. Share the information with your family and friends.