



**Block Watch
and Emergency Preparedness
Including the Map Your
Neighborhood Plan For
Zone**

**If you need more information or need assistance with setting up a
Block Watch meeting contact Linda Kroner (425) 455-1834 or
depclerk@huntspoint-wa.gov**

What is Block Watch?

Very simply, Block Watch is a system designed to encourage neighbors to look out for each other and reduce crime by reporting suspicious activity and crime. The Town of Hunts Point has combined Block Watch with the Map Your Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Plan as described in this booklet.

Whether it is called Map Your Neighborhood, Block Watch or Crime Watch, it helps create the very best crime prevention and emergency preparedness plan invented: neighbors watching your home as well as their own and helping each other in the event of an emergency.

Block Watch is the most successful anticrime program in the country. It is the most effective (and least expensive) tool to make sure we have the safe, pleasant environment we all want for our families. This booklet is designed to help neighborhoods get started and keep it going.

Block Watch can drop the crime rate by 80% if effectively followed.



**Block
Watch
Works!**

**This section focuses on Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) For
The Town of Hunts Point**

And outlines the plan described on the DVD used for training

In a disaster, your most immediate source of help are the neighbors living around you. They are also the best security for the neighborhood.

In this meeting you will:

1. Learn the first 9 steps to take immediately following disaster to secure your home and to protect your neighborhood.
2. Identify the skills and equipment each neighbor has that are using in an effective disaster response.
3. Create a Neighborhood Map showing the locations of each natural gas meter and propane tank and each neighbor who is elderly, who has a disability, and where children are who may be home alone at certain hours of the day.



Knowing what to do in the first hours of a disaster response may help you save a life, reduce the severity of possible injuries, and reduce the amount of damage the neighborhood sustains.

9 steps – Immediately Following Disaster

IN YOUR HOME

Step 1 – Take Care of your loved ones

Step 2 – Protect your head, feet and hands.

A bicycle helmet or hard hat protects from falling debris. Sturdy shoes protect from broken glass. Leather gloves protect from sharp objects



Keep these under your bed

Step 3 – Check the natural gas or propane at your home – shut off if necessary.

This is one of the best ways to prevent fire. (see handouts on how to shut off natural gas or propane) If the natural gas is not leaking, if a leak cannot be heard hissing or smelled, don't turn it off. PSE is the only one that can turn it back on.

Step 4 – Shut off water at the house main to trap water in your home and keep pollutants out of possible drinking water, like that in your water heater.

Step 5 – Place the Help or OK sign (see attachment later in the handout) on your front door or window. Posting the sign helps your neighbors locate those who need help first!

Step 6 – Put your fire extinguisher on the sidewalk or where neighbors can see it if you don't need it yourself. This way if a neighbor has a small fire extinguishers are immediately available.



GATHER WITH NEIGHBORS – After Steps 1-6 are completed:

Now it is time to see what you can do for your neighbors and for other parts of the Town.

Step 7 – Go to the gathering site - The gathering site is Hunts Point Town Hall – 3000 Hunts Point Road



If you are able to help with search and rescue, the medical team or operate a chain saw to cut dangerous trees, go to Town Hall. If you are elderly, or have small children, go to your zone's safe house

Come to the gathering site, Town Hall or the Zone safe house, after you have completed step 1 -6. Coming there will help you organize an effective neighborhood response and reduce confusion.

If you are on the Emergency Team and have a hand held radio, turn your radio on to Channel 3 and report in from your zone to the base station at Town Hall. Tell the base station that you are surveying the homes in your zone for damage, injuries, and other problems. By this time, other emergency team members will have gathered and organized at Town Hall. Town Hall becomes the Emergency Command Center. The procedures are as follows:

1. The Mayor checks with Medina Police to determine if an Emergency is to be declared. If there is an emergency:
 - a. A Red Flag is raised on the Town Hall Flag Pole
 - b. During a declared emergency, all volunteers, Doctors and Nurses are indemnified by State statute from legal liability or lawsuits
 - c. The Mayor, or someone with the key, opens the storage container with all the Town's emergency equipment. A key is also located in the key box in the office behind the office door.
2. Emergency team members gather at Town Hall organize into search teams and go to help the Block Watch captains that have called in for help.

See the appendices for :

1. Storage Container Key list
2. Container Supplies
3. Emergency Team Members, telephone, address and radio list

Step 8 – Form up the designated emergency response teams: (see handout)

Team 1 – Emergency alert-designated by Mayor, Red Flag raised at Town Hall

Team 2 – Check on elderly, disabled and children

Team 3 – Check natural gas and propane

Team 4 – Search and rescue to emergencies called in by radio

You may be asked to join a team if you are not already designated and/or the designee is not available.

Step 9 – After your team has completed its work, go back to Town Hall. Share what you have done. Receive additional information about what still needs to be done.



HOME CARE CENTER

A home care center is inside someone's home. It is a place where children, those who are elderly and those with disabilities can be brought so they are not alone and where they can be given care. The response teams will be responsible to see that those individuals who need to are escorted to the Home Care Center.

The Home Care Center for Zone is:

Address for Safe Home is:



**NEIGHBORHOOD SKILLS AND EQUIPMENT INVENTORY
ZONE**

Who Knows What? Who Has What? Who Can Do What?

Write in below

Skills/ Knowledge	Equipment/Supplies
First Aid Skills	First Aid Supplies
Child Care Skills	Hard Hats/Tents/Spare Bedding
Elder Care Skills	Chain Saw
Search and Rescue Skills	Generator
Crisis Counseling Skills	Fire Extinguisher
Plumber Skills	Camp Stove
Carpenter Skills	Walkie-Talkie
Electrician Skills	Ladder
Fire Fighting Skills	Crow Bar
Coordinating/Organizing Skills	Strong Rope

See Appendix for what is in the Storage Container at Town Hall

HOUSE MAP

Each Neighbor is to complete this form. They will receive a completed one once everyone has filled it in

Zone

Location of: Gas Shut off – Water Shut off – Propane tank – Other -	Location of: Gas Shut off – Water Shut off – Propane tank – Other -
Location of: Gas Shut off – Water Shut off – Propane tank – Other -	Location of: Gas Shut off – Water Shut off – Propane tank – Other -
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	Location of: Gas Shut off – Water Shut off – Propane tank – Other -

Block Watch Map

Zone

HOUSE

16

Adult Name(s)

Children Name(s)

Best Phone

Email

Pet(s)/kind(s)

Any person with specific needs

HOUSE

17

Adult Name(s)

Children Name(s)

Best Phone

Email

Pet(s)/kind(s)

Any person with specific needs

HOUSE

18

Adult Name(s)

Children Name(s)

Best Phone

Email

Pet(s)/kind(s)

Any person with specific needs

HOUSE

19

Adult Name(s)

Children Name(s)

Best Phone

Email

Pet(s)/kind(s)

Any person with specific needs

HOUSE

20

Adult Name(s)

Children Name(s)

Best Phone

Email

Pet(s)/kind(s)

Any person with specific needs

HOUSE

21

Adult Name(s)

Children Name(s)

Best Phone

Email

Pet(s)/kind(s)

Any person with specific needs

BEFORE THE DISASTER – Put two band aids in this booklet and put the booklet under your bed, along with your sturdy shoes, hard hats, and leather gloves.

AFTER THE DISASTER - Use the band aids to hang this card on the front door or a window so it is visible from the street

HELP

Note: The search and rescue teams will be checking with the residents and placing red, yellow or green cards on the doors to indicate their status. This sign will help them prioritize their efforts.

Hang this in your window if you do not need immediate assistance.

OK

MORE ABOUT BLOCK WATCH

What does a Neighborhood Block Watch do?

For Block Watch, if you see any suspicious activity, immediately call “911”, then call your neighbors. 911 will dispatch the Medina Police to check it out. The police would much rather check out a “non-event”, than allow a “bad event” to happen. Also, let your neighbors know when you are out of town, and call Medina Police at (425) 233-6422 for “House Watch”. Below are additional crime prevention tips.

1. Participate in Block Watch and attend Block Watch Meetings. Call your Block Watch Captain to say “Hi”, and report on the accuracy of your information. We also want to get email addresses.
2. Set your house alarm 24/7. When gone, set your motion detector if you have one. Most burglaries occur during the day.
3. Use a “Locking” mailbox.
4. Lock your doors, windows, and cars at all time.
5. Park cars in the garage, locked, with keys out.
6. Call “911” when you see anything suspicious. Don’t be afraid to call. There is no embarrassment or fine if the police find nothing wrong. We want to check out everything!

Then:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help Neighbors trim bushes and trees for better visibility• Organize a community clean up, leaf raking day, or pruning party• Help remove graffiti right way• Invite the Fire Department to talk about fire prevention and disaster preparedness• Get each neighbor to make their house numbers easy to see at night• Help each other reinforce door frames, hinges, and locks for windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a neighborhood garage sale to encourage the sense of community• Start a newsletter for the neighborhood and include a kids column• Clean up a nearby park or playground• Ask the neighborhood children to help with some of the projects• Send several people to C.E.R.T. or disaster preparedness training• Look into installing all locked mailboxes
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OPERATION IDENTIFICATION – Operation ID

Operation ID is a program where property is marked or engraved with a special number. This is called an owner-applied number (OAN) and it can be used to report stolen items. Operation ID has shown dramatic results in reducing burglaries and theft. Burglars usually avoid marked items because they are hard to resell.

- Mark valuables with driver's license number (DL) or some other identifying number. Don't use your social security number
- Put the two letter state identification (WA) at the start and end of the number.
- Don't engrave paintings, antiques or any item you may want to sell or where it would diminish the value.
- Hang Operation ID decals near your doors. This lets burglars know that property inside has been marked and won't be easy to sell.
- On the back or bottom on the item tape a small note or sticker that shows this item has been marked or engraved. The burglar may miss the number but not the sticker.
- Decals and stickers may be available from policies agencies or you can purchase them from the National Neighborhood Watch Institute
http://www.nnwi.org/operation_id.asp

Home Inventory

It is nearly impossible to remember the items you have lost if your home is burglarized or suffers extensive fire damage. A home inventory on paper and/or video format will help you report items to the police and to your insurance company. Make sure you include everything, even kitchen items and your junk drawer. List the make, model and serial number of anything so identified and particularly any guns in the house. Keep your lists and/or video in a safe deposit box or somewhere offsite where they will not be stolen or destroyed.

Calling 9-1-1 or the Medina Police at 425-454-1332

Always report suspicious activity and all crimes because police don't know there is a problem unless they are told. The Medina Police have said they would rather investigate something that is not a problem than have an incident go unreported.

Example: You see someone who does not belong in the neighborhood looking into a car. If the police come by they don't know the individual does not belong but you do. It is great when the police can catch someone in the act of committing a crime. Or you see smoke coming out of a chimney (or windows) and you know the individuals are not at home.

Stay calm if you call 9-1-1. Don't yell or hang up and answer all questions carefully. In most cases, help is on the way even as the call receiver asks more questions.

- When you describe vehicles: note number of doors, color, make or shape, any bumper stickers or decals, cracked windshield or dents
- To remember license plates: write it on paper, or your hand. It is important that they are correct. Don't hesitate to say "I'm not sure". If you have a good description of the vehicle even a partial plate is helpful.
- To describe people: note their clothing but also note skin color, eye color, tattoos or other marks, height, weight – things that cannot be easily changed
- To describe issues on the road: give the road name and number and direction of travel.

Teach children how to use the 9-1-1 system appropriately and if they are alone. Help them learn to watch for trouble and what to report and how to get help if they need it.



Suspicious Activity Examples

It is important to call 9-1-1 if you see suspicious activity. Pay attention to your instincts when something “just doesn’t seem right”. The police don’t know about it if you don’t call.

Don’t worry that you are “bothering” the police or 9-1-1. They handle many calls at once and they will take care of urgent calls first. Police would rather respond to calls that turn out to be nothing than to a “cold” crime – where it is all done and the criminal got away. There is always the chance they can catch someone in the act of a crime if you call.

Situation:	What it might mean:
Person going door to door, looking into backyards and windows	Possible “casing” or look for house to burglarize or trespassing
Non-resident going into back or side yard	Possible burglary in progress
Continuous vehicle “repairs”	Possible stolen vehicle being stripped
Person waiting in front of a house	Possible lookout for a burglary in progress
Slow moving vehicles, without lights or driving by several times	Possible “casing” for burglaries or car thefts, drug sales, prostitution or sex offender looking for a victim
Person trying to enter locked vehicle or removing parts or accessories	Possible burglary, theft, or vandalism
Person running, especially if carrying something of value	Possible fleeing scene of a crime
Person approaching you, especially if you are alone, asking for help	Possible theft, car theft, or assault
Many cars coming to a residence, leaving after only a few minutes	Possible drug sales, fence operation, or sales of stolen goods
People with flashlights looking into cars or windows	Possible burglary, assault, car theft, or theft of items from a car
Unusual noises: gun shots, screaming, fight noises, abnormal dog barking	Possible illegal activity or danger – use your instincts.