

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Fountain Valley Police Department

10200 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley CA 92708
Daniel S. Llorens, Chief of Police

Police Phone Numbers

Non-Emergency: 714-593-4485 / 714-593-4486
Watch Commander: 714-593-4487
Crime Prevention Office: 714-593-4526
Crime in Progress: 9-1-1

Neighborhood Watch

Office: 714-593-4488
Report Graffiti: 714-593-4604

Summer 2013 Issue

Greetings! Summer is almost here – hooray!

I'm looking forward to the warmth of summer, opening up my windows for fresh air and the slight ocean breeze...can't wait! If you are anything like my teenager or perhaps you have a teenager yourself—it is worth reminding ourselves and our families that open windows are like an open invitation for burglars to come into our homes. **Please don't forget to close and lock your windows and doors as you leave your homes** even if only for what you think will be a few minutes.

An important measure to preventing and/or reducing crime is to report crime to law enforcement so together we can take action toward preventing it from happening again.

Visit www.fvdp.org to find all sorts of information and to sign-up for Neighborhood Watch Bulletins, Crime Trend Bulletins, and Monthly Crime Data.



Kellie Hopkins
Neighborhood Watch Volunteer

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIDBIT

Preparedness must be a part of our daily lives. Below is a sample of a family link-up plan. Each member of the family should fill in the following information. Make sure everyone has a copy and post several around the house. Consider giving copies to trusted friends or neighbors. List out-of-town family phone and email information as well as numbers for trusted neighbors on the back of the form.

SAMPLE

Name of Family Member	Work/School Address (include suite or class #) and Phone	If at (place), will go to (safe place)	Address and phone of safe place	Will contact family via _____:
Maribeth	123 Fourth St Suite 567 714-999-000	If at work, will go to Abby Smith's house	Abby Smith 456 Seventh St 714-888-0000	Will call Aunt Tessie Tucker in Tampa if local lines down
		If at class, will come home	Home	N/A
		If at night school will go to school gym (designated shelter)	Orange Coast 2701 Fairview, Costa Mesa, 714-777-0000	Will call Aunt Tessie Tucker in Tampa

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

SAFER SENIORS



GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY

- Report any crime or suspicious activities to law enforcement
- Join a Neighborhood Watch to help and look out for each other.
- Work to change conditions that hurt your neighborhood. Volunteer in your community.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

- Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail, or over the internet unless you have initiated the contact or know with whom you are dealing.
- Shred discarded documents such as bank statements, pre-approved credit card offers, and insurance forms that contain financial information.
- Do not use your mother's maiden name, birth date, or last four digits of your social security number when creating a password.
- Never carry your social security card, birth certificate, or passport unless necessary.
- Do not write your social security number on checks or give it out to businesses.
- Do not put your credit card number on the internet unless it is encrypted on a secured site.
- If you order a new credit card, make sure it arrives within the appropriate time. Cancel all credit cards you have not used in the last six months.
- Order your credit report at least twice a year. Correct all mistakes with the credit bureau.

**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME®**

BE ALERT WHEN OUT AND ABOUT

- Go with friends or family, not alone.
- Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash.
- Use direct deposit for Social Security and other regular checks.
- Whether you're a passenger or driver, keep car doors locked. Be particularly alert in parking lots and garages. Park near an entrance.
- If someone or something makes you uneasy, trust your instincts and leave.

MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE

- Install good locks on doors and windows. Use them! Don't hide keys in mailboxes and planters or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a neighbor or friend.
- Ask for photo identification from service or delivery people before letting them in. If you are the least bit worried, call the company to verify.
- Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction, and well lighted so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- Consider a home alarm system that provides emergency monitoring for burglary, fire, and medical emergencies.

WATCH OUT FOR CON ARTIST

- Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true—a free vacation; sweepstakes prizes; cures for cancer and arthritis; a low-risk, high-yield investment scheme.
- Never give your credit card, phone card, Social Security, or bank account number to anyone over the phone. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything—an insurance policy, a sales agreement, a contract. Read it carefully and have someone you trust check it over.
- Beware of individuals claiming to represent companies, consumer organizations, or government agencies that offer to recover lost money from fraudulent telemarketers for a fee.
- If you're suspicious, check it out with the police, the Better Business Bureau, or your local consumer protection office. You can also call the National Consumer League Fraud Information Center at 800-876-7060.

Resource: NCPD.org

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

VEHICLE SECURITY

You can prevent car theft and vehicle burglaries!

Most cars are stolen or broken into by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily. Protect your car against this type of crime by taking the following sensible precautions:

LOCK UP:

- An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief. Lock up when you leave your car and take the keys with you.
- Lock the trunk.
- Close all windows—professional thieves have tools that unlock cars through the smallest openings.
- Be sure vent, or wind-wing windows, are shut tight and locked.
- When you park your car, remove cellular phones, computers, stereos and other valuable possessions. Do not leave gift-wrapped packages or cameras lying on the seat. Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you.
- Always lock your car, even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or mini-mall.

WHAT TO TEACH KIDS ABOUT STRANGERS

Information about the differences between Strangers kids should look out for and Strangers kids can trust

Kids see strangers every day in stores, in the park, and in their neighborhoods. Most of these strangers are nice, normal people, but a few may not be. Parents can protect their children from dangerous strangers by teaching them about strangers and suspicious behavior, and by taking a few precautions of their own.

Who is a stranger?

A stranger is anyone that your family doesn't know well. It's common for children to think that "bad strangers" look scary, like the villains in cartoons. This is not only not true, but it's dangerous for children to think this way. Pretty strangers can be just as dangerous as the not-so-pretty ones. When you talk to your children about strangers, explain that no one can tell if strangers are nice or not nice just by looking at them and that they should be careful around all strangers.

But don't make it seem like all strangers are bad. If children need help--whether they're lost, being threatened by a bully, or being followed by a stranger--the safest thing for them to do in many cases is to ask a stranger for help. You can make this easier for them by showing them which strangers are okay to trust.

Who are safe strangers?

Safe strangers are people children can ask for help when they need it. Police officers and firefighters are two examples of very recognizable safe strangers. Teachers, principals, and librarians are adults children can trust too, and they are easy to recognize when they're at work. But make sure that you emphasize that whenever possible, children should go to a public place to ask for help.

You can help your children recognize safe strangers by pointing them out when you're out in your town. Also show your children places they can go if they need help, such as local stores and restaurants and the homes of family friends in your neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



Recognizing and Handling Dangerous Situations

Perhaps the most important way parents can protect their children is to teach them to be wary of potentially dangerous situations – this will help them when dealing with strangers as well as with known adults who may not have good intentions. Help children recognize the warning signs of suspicious behavior, such as when an adult asks them to disobey their parents or do something without permission, asks them to keep a secret, asks children for help, or makes them feel uncomfortable in any way. Also tell your children that an adult should never ask a child for help, and if one does ask for their help, teach them to find a trusted adult right away to tell what happened.

TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME[®]

You should also talk to your children about how they should handle dangerous situations. One way is to teach them “**No, Go, Yell, Tell.**” If in a dangerous situation, kids should say no, run away, yell as loud as they can, and tell a trusted adult what happened right away. Make sure that your children know that it is okay to say no to an adult in a dangerous situation and to yell to keep themselves safe, even if they are indoors. It’s good to practice this in different situations so that your children will feel confident in knowing what to do. Here are a few possible scenarios:

- A nice-looking stranger approaches your child in the park and asks for help finding the stranger’s lost dog.
- A woman who lives in your neighborhood but that the child has never spoken to invites your child into her house for a snack.
- A stranger asks if your child wants a ride home from school.
- Your child thinks he or she is being followed.
- An adult your child knows says or does something that makes him or her feel bad or uncomfortable.
- While your child is walking home from a friend’s house, a car pulls over and a stranger asks for directions.

Resource: NCPD.org

SAVE THE DATE

**National Night Out Celebration - Tuesday, August 6th
at Fountain Valley Recreation Center and Sports Park**

Check our website www.fvdpd.org closer to the date for more information.