

How To Start and Grow and Apartment Watch

- ▶ Help arrange with local police for apartment security surveys and Operation Identification.
- ▶ Organize citizen patrols to walk around the apartment complex and alert police to crime and suspicious activities. Don't forget to patrol parking lots, stairways, laundry rooms, and playgrounds.
- ▶ Publish a newsletter that gives local crime news, recognizes Apartment Watch captains, and highlights community activities.
- ▶ Organize a reception in the lobby of your building or a cookout on common property so neighbors can get to know one another.
- ▶ Keep pressure on management to make sure it provides adequate security.
- ▶ Start a McGruff House program for children – places where they can go in emergency or scary situations.
- ▶ Check the complex on a regular basis for such problems as burned-out light bulbs, dark corridors, uncollected trash, or broken locks on mailboxes and doors. Report problems to the building manager.
- ▶ Organize meetings to brainstorm how you can help each other, such as starting an escort service for the elderly or after-school care for children.

Check Out Your Apartment

Does your

- ▶ entry door have a deadbolt lock and wide angle viewer?
- ▶ sliding glass door have a wooden rod or metal brace in the track so it can't be opened and pins in the overhead frame so it can't be lifted out?
- ▶ landlord or building manager tightly control all keys?

Check Out Your Building

- ▶ Is there some kind of control over who enters and leaves the building?
- ▶ Are walkways, entrances, parking areas, elevators, hallways, stairways, laundry rooms, and storage areas well lighted, 24 hours a day?
- ▶ Are fire stairs locked from the stairwell side above the ground floor, so you can exit but no one can enter?
- ▶ Are mailboxes in a well-traveled, well-lighted area, and do they have good locks?
- ▶ Are things well maintained – are burnt out lights fixed promptly, shrubs trimmed, trash removed?

Check Out Your Neighbors

- ▶ Get to know your neighbors. Join or organize an Apartment Watch group so neighbors can look out for and help each other.
- ▶ Think about a tenant patrol that watches for crime around the building, provides escort services for the elderly and disabled, and monitors comings and goings in the lobby.
- ▶ Work with landlords to sponsor social events for tenants.
- ▶ Look beyond problems to root causes – does your building need a better playground, a social evening for teens, a tenant association, or new landscaping? Work with the landlord for changes that make everyone proud of where they live.