



www.frisconeighborhoodwatch.com

Email: info@frisconeighborhoodwatch.com

Frisco Neighborhood Watch

As most everyone knows Frisco has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years. Unfortunately with that growth we have also seen an increase in crime (especially property crimes). Consequently, this has resulted in an increased need for citizen involvement in neighborhood watch efforts, with an extra special need for Block Captains. Although Frisco still enjoys a lower crime rate than many cities in our region, there is a tremendous need for citizen participation in our neighborhood watch program. In order for any neighborhood to be crime free, everyone must take “ownership” of his or her community by taking a stand against crime. The Frisco Police Department would like the opportunity to proactively partner with every citizen in this effort so to ensure that Frisco remains a safe place to live, work, play and grow.

Many new communities/subdivisions throughout Frisco are not currently involved in neighborhood watch and/or have an insufficient number of Block Captains. An active neighborhood watch is single biggest and best deterrent to crime. By having this extra and essential set of “eyes” and “ears,” the police department is able to more effectively fight crime.

Frisc Neighborhood Watch (FNW), a 501c.3 non-profit organization, is a citywide, non-confrontational crime prevention initiative that educates citizens in ways of reducing their risk of being a victim of crime - both at home and in public. Citizens are trained to recognize/report suspicious activities, how to make their homes more secure and to pass on information to the other members of their community. **Neighborhood Watch participates are not vigilantes and DO NOT directly contact suspicious persons, enforce laws or place themselves in situations that may compromise their safety or the safety of others.** Frisco Neighborhood Watch is based on the premise of neighbors getting to know each other and passing on crime related/crime prevention information. **Frisc Neighborhood Watch members receive valuable information concerning local crime-related incidents, crime trends and local events via the FNW website and FNW e-mail network.**

Frisc Neighborhood Watch is directed by a Board of Directors whose members work directly with the Frisco Police Department, Homeowners Associations and other organizations throughout Frisco. District Coordinators oversee neighborhood watch efforts in a specific area (such as a subdivision or apartment community) and Block Captains (or Building Captains in apartment communities) distribute information directly to the residents in their immediate block/building. Many members of Frisco Neighborhood Watch are also graduates of the Frisco Citizens’ Police Academy (CPA) and members of the Frisco Citizens’ Police Academy Alumni Association (FCPAAA) and Citizens on Patrol (COPS). Neighborhood watch instills a greater sense of security, well being and “sense of community.” Some other benefits of neighborhood watch include:

- **Reducing the risk of being a crime victim.**
- **Being better prepared to respond to a suspicious activity.**
- **Greater access to information related to criminal activity.**
- **Knowing your neighbors.**
- **Reducing the fear of crime and making a neighborhood more livable.**
- **Allowing an avenue to address other issues of concern within the community.**

Block Captains are the backbone of Frisco Neighborhood Watch. Quite frequently Block Captains are the only direct contact neighbors have with the organization. In order for communication to flow effectively to and from residents, citizens need to feel the Block Captain is interested and available to hear their comments/concerns.

The number of Block Captains will depend upon the size of the neighborhood and the number of residences on each street. In some neighborhoods, Co-Block Captains share responsibility for a block; in others, a Block Captain may be responsible for more than one block. As a general rule, a Block Captain can be most effective with a limited number of households, possibly 10 to 15.

BLOCK CAPTAIN DUTIES

- Meet the neighbors on the block, inform them about the neighborhood watch group, get their input about what is important to them, and enlist their help to organize the block and/or neighborhood.
- **Frequently check the Frisco Neighborhood Watch website at www.frisconeighborhoodwatch for the most up to date crime reports, stats and related information. The website is a great source of information that can be passed on to your neighbors.**
- Prepare and maintain a block directory listing or map of the block with names, addresses, and home and work telephone numbers. Distribute copies to all residents on the block. Get permission to list & distribute information from each resident before distributing.
- Distribute meeting flyers and newsletters to the block residents as needed (can be done via email).
- Act as a liaison between all block residents and the Neighborhood Watch Board. Meet with neighbors periodically to maintain the flow of information and promote neighborhood cooperation and friendliness.
- Visit with new residents to inform them about Frisco Neighborhood Watch and encourage their participation and membership.
- Assist in encouraging neighbors to:
 - ⇒ Recognize and **immediately report** unusual and suspicious activity to the police.
 - ⇒ Be more observant and accurately record good descriptions, license numbers, etc.
 - ⇒ Exchange information with other block residents such as types of automobiles, work hours, emergency contacts, and other helpful information so that neighbors may know what is normal at each other's homes.
 - ⇒ Make their home more secure.
- Participate in periodic meetings with the Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee and other Block Captains.

- Pass on the input received from your neighbors.

“BACK-UP” BLOCK CAPTAINS / CO-BLOCK CAPTAINS

Because of the many ongoing responsibilities of a Block Captain, it may be advisable to recruit a back-up volunteer willing to fill in when the Block Captain is unavailable. This is especially important in areas in which you are relying upon the Block Captains to distribute urgent information. Back-up Block Captains’ responsibilities normally are to substitute for and/or assist the primary Block Captain as needed.

FRISCO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GENERAL MEETINGS – EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED AND WELCOME TO ATTEND

Frisco Neighborhood Watch meetings are currently being held on the third Monday of each month at the Frisco Police Department (7200 Stonebrook Pkwy) and are open to anyone wishing to attend. Guest speakers address various crime-related/safety issues and residents may voice their questions/concerns as well. Other Neighborhood Watch related meetings are held locally through Block Captains, District Coordinators and Homeowners Associations.

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTIES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



www.nationalnightout.org

Every year on the first Tuesday of August, Frisco Neighborhood Watch promotes block parties throughout the city for “National Night Out.” This annual event serves as a culmination of yearlong crime prevention efforts and is a way for neighbors to get out and meet each other. Many Block Captains host other block parties throughout the year as well. During NNO, Police/Fire personnel, Mayor and city council members, other city officials, police-affiliated volunteers and McGruff attend block parties throughout the city.

National Night Out also serves as a great way to kick-off and reinvigorate neighborhood watch efforts in both new and older communities alike.

STARTING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Frisco Police Department and members of the Frisco Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee are always willing to attend any neighborhood/community meeting, gathering, HOA event, etc., and present information on starting neighborhood watch. Additionally, we will assist in training new members and offer ongoing support to local neighborhood watch efforts in any way possible.

The first step to starting neighborhood watch is to contact Frisco Neighborhood Watch or the Frisco Police Department Community Services Division in order to get an application and information about any existing neighborhood watch efforts in your area. Once completed, the application is submitted to the Frisco Police Department for processing (background check). At that time additional information will be sent to you that will assist you in getting things started.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- Take the time to get to know your neighbors.
- Educate your children in methods of crime prevention and stranger safety.
- Maintain a map of your immediate neighborhood to include your neighbor's names, addresses and phone numbers.
- Be observant and ALWAYS report suspicious activity to the police. Don't worry about bothering the police or being embarrassed if your suspicions prove to be unfounded.
- Provide adequate outside lighting.
- Install a 190-degree door peephole on your front door.
- Put interior lights on a timer when not at home.
- ALWAYS keep garage doors closed, unless you are inside the garage.
- Reinforce deadbolt locks; secure sliding doors and windows with auxiliary locks.
- Secure garage door openers in the glove compartment of your vehicle or take it in with you when you get home.
- Never hide a house key outside.
- Have a neighbor pick up your mail and/or newspaper when you are away.
- Have your lawn cut regularly when you are away.
- Padlock gates to your yard.

AUTO BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

Auto burglaries can be very difficult cases to solve as there is usually very little physical evidence left behind after one has occurred. These crimes usually occur in the early morning hours in residential areas, apartment or business parking lots when it is less likely the thieves will be seen. In order to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a car burglary we have provided some easy tips to follow.

- **ALWAYS** close your windows and lock your vehicle and garage doors. An open or unlocked window/garage door is an invitation to a criminal and easy target.
- Park in well lit areas close to the building, or if at home in the garage. If you must park in your driveway utilize (or install) floodlights installed above/around your garage set on a motion detector to illuminate your driveway as this will help discourage a Burglar (lighting is one of the best property crime deterrents). While parking in an isolated spot may reduce the risk of door dings, a criminal looks for vehicles parked out of the way in order to help ensure less attention is drawn to them.
- **ALWAYS** remove loose valuables from your vehicle, including the garage door opener (if taken an easy way for a Burglar to gain entry into your home). This includes, purses, wallets, cellular phones, laptop computers, loose change, briefcases, etc. A car burglar loves to see items that can be grabbed easily and carried away without much effort. **A brick through the window is all it takes to gain access to those loose items.**
- **ALWAYS** set your car alarm (if so equipped) and take note of any car alarms you hear going off in your vicinity.
- **Don't hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious persons seen wandering around in parking lots/neighborhoods (particularly after hours) and/or looking into cars as they walk by.**
- Keep a list of serial numbers for your commonly used electronic equipment. Even if you plan on never leaving a cellular phone or laptop computer in your vehicle, you should record all of the following information:

Make of Item: (Motorola, Compaq, etc.)

Model Number

Serial Number

Having this information available is necessary in order to enter the items into the NCIC computer database. This will aid police in trying to locate the items if the offender(s) are found with them or if they are pawned. This will also ensure the property is returned to the rightful owner.

These steps should be used whenever and wherever you park your vehicle, whether you are just "running in for a minute" or parking for the evening.



For more information, please contact:

**Frisco Police Department
Community Services Division
972-292-6139/6134**



FRISCO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK / BUILDING CAPTAIN APPLICATION



NAME _____
Last, First, MI

STREET ADDRESS _____

SUB-DIVISION _____ / _____
Village or Phase

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ BUSINESS PHONE _____

DRIVER'S LICENSE # _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____
(INCLUDING STATE)

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

EMPLOYER _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ OCCUPATION _____

Have you ever been arrested? YES _____ NO _____

If you answered yes, please provide details of the arrest, including the date, place of arrest, and disposition.

I, the undersigned, authorize the City of Frisco Police Department to request a background check on me to verify that I do not have a past conviction for any offense that would disqualify me from becoming a Frisco Neighborhood Watch Block Captain.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Return this form to:

**Frisco Police Department
Community Services Division
7200 Stonebrook Pkwy
Frisco, Texas 75034
(972) 292-6139
Fax (972) 292-6076**