



Frequently Asked Questions about the Neighborhood Watch

1. What is the Hollybrooke Email Alert List and how do I participate? The Email Alert list is a tool of the Neighborhood Watch that enables quick notification of the neighborhood that an incident has occurred, similar to how phone trees were used in the past. It is used to create awareness of suspicious activity or serious crimes in the neighborhood, and is useful because often several incidents will occur over a period of a week or so. After contacting the police, a homeowner contacts the CSC chair at communitysafety@hollybrooke.org or via a phone call and describes the incident, including a description of the vehicles, perpetrators involved, and items stolen if relevant. The CSC chair then sends an alert. To join the list or report an incident, send an email to the CSC chair.

1. How long are the training programs?

Each Training Program is no more than 1-1/2 hours long, starting between 7:00 and 7:30 p.m. and ending by 9:00 p.m. The training program covers home security, theft prevention, personal safety, and Neighborhood Watch guidelines.

2. How much will it cost me to upgrade my home security?

It depends on what security hardware already exists in the home. The recommendations are based on the minimum requirements and most are not expensive. Some of these hardware suggestions can be implemented slowly by securing the more vulnerable areas first and less vulnerable areas later, to spread out the cost.

3. Where can I get an engraver to mark my property and who gets the list I make?

The Operation Identification brochure provides a suggested list of items to be engraved. Smaller more expensive items such as jewelry should be photographed. The list and photos are retained by the homeowner and should be stored in a place that is safe from fire and theft, preferably outside the home. Members of the Neighborhood Watch will make available engravers for use.

4. Doesn't it cost too much to keep on outside lighting, and doesn't the light encourage a theft?

Lighting deters criminal activity and is your least expensive and best crime deterrent. If you turn on a 60 watt incandescent bulb in front of your house and a 40 watt bulb in the rear, it costs about 6-10 cents/evening. Compact fluorescent bulbs are considerably cheaper to operate with a longer life than incandescent bulbs, but cost more to purchase.

5. What does a block captain do?

Block captains are the Neighborhood Watch point of contact for the 10-15 homes surrounding them. The block captain assists with surveys, hands out Community Safety Committee and Neighborhood Watch materials, meets new neighbors, coordinates Operation ID and security upgrade activities with homeowners and logs those who have met the MCPD requirements for getting a sign, among other activities.

6. How often would I be asked to patrol?

Frequency of patrols is determined by the number of participants and their availability. The intent is not to schedule a person for more than one patrol every 2-3 months. Patrols will typically be



scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights. Patrols can occur during the day as well based on participant availability (day watch). Finally, patrols can be scheduled based on activity occurring in the neighborhood, based on crime statistics from the MCPD, or because of the day, for example Halloween.

7. How does the Patrol work? Residents volunteer to perform patrols on an infrequent basis, with patrols typically happening Friday and Saturday nights. Patrols can occur at other times based on activity occurring in the neighborhood or based on crime statistics from the MCPD.

8. What do I do on patrol? Cruise the neighborhood with the Neighborhood Watch magnetic signs on your car, keeping your eyes open for anything unusual.

9. What should I do if I see something? Use the information sheets in the Patrol Log to record pertinent information and then call the police on the cell phone.

10. What happens to the personal information I provide to the CSC, should I choose to volunteer? It is kept confidential and never leaves the hands of the CSC.

11. How can I help the CSC or the Watch other than by patrolling? By getting to know your neighbors and being familiar with the people, pets, and cars on your street. By volunteering your time for other CSC projects such as creation of shift schedules, street light maintenance requests, follow-up with the Montgomery County Police, writing crime statistics articles, fire safety, disaster preparedness, and/or other community safety related articles for the Derwood Station South newsletters. There are many ways you can make a difference to your community through volunteering with the CSC!

12. Who sponsors the Neighborhood Watch and how is it funded? The Neighborhood Watch is funded by both the MCPD and by the community through the Derwood Station South HOA, specifically by the HOA assessments collected twice a year. DSS HOA funding is used to pay for this brochure, other CSC forms, the patrol book, spot light, magnetic car signs, and other items that may arise. Costs are very minimal. The MCPD funds brochures, trainers, and the Neighborhood Watch Sign.

13. How do we get the Neighborhood Watch Sign? A certain level of participation in Operation ID, the Watch, and Home Security Improvements are required, typically in the range of 60% of the homes.

14. Where do I find out more information about the CSC and the Neighborhood Watch? Information about the committee, neighborhood watch, and contact information is posted on the Hollybrooke Website, <http://www.hollybrooke.org>. In addition, you can contact the CSC chair at communitysafety@hollybrooke.org or refer to the latest Hollybrooke newsletter for the phone number of the current CSC Chair and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.