

Community Focus Statement G: Improve public safety within the Lake Arrowhead communities

Action Statement G.1: Establish a neighborhood watch program that can be implemented throughout the communities.

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Benchmarks: Neighborhood watch programs exist in at least 50 percent of the Lake Arrowhead communities residential areas. Each program has established leadership that meets regularly (at least once a quarter), meets with representatives from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department at least once annually, and continues to function for at least five years from its inception.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$400–\$3,000



Communities with a neighborhood watch program often post signs similar to this one, warning potential lawbreakers of increased vigilance and community awareness. Photo source: Famartin

The establishment of neighborhood watch programs in the Lake Arrowhead communities is a method to help keep the communities safe by getting community members involved in crime prevention efforts. Participating residents can monitor and keep watch on the neighbors and the neighborhood, decreasing the opportunities for people to commit a crime without being observed. Community members also promptly report suspicious activities to law enforcement officials, who can intervene and potentially stop a crime from occurring. The goal of a neighborhood watch program is not to catch criminals or to change their behavior, but to reduce the number of situations where a crime could happen. Neighborhood watch programs in the Lake Arrowhead communities, may have a better chance of long-term success if it is started by community members, with the assistance of existing County programs. Drug abuse and a rising crime rate are safety concerns in the Lake Arrowhead communities.

Many strategies can increase the effectiveness of neighborhood watch programs to reduce crime in the future. The Lake Arrowhead communities can partner with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department on starting and maintaining neighborhood watch programs by providing critical resources and training for program participants. Existing community groups such as homeowners associations can serve as a framework for neighbors to get together, organize, and grow a neighborhood watch program. Participants can host events such as cleanups, making areas nicer and more attractive and less likely to be used for criminal purposes. Block parties and neighborhood events can make people more aware of the program and allow participants to share information about the neighborhood watch program with other residents. Signs posted around the community can help make residents aware that a neighborhood watch program is active, and may discourage potential lawbreakers from taking illegal actions. Neighborhood watch programs can also act with a united voice to encourage local

communities and businesses to take action and make communities safer, such as installing better outdoor lighting or rehabilitating run-down public spaces.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Conduct outreach activities and recruit residents to serve on a neighborhood watch committee. Conduct a kickoff, informational meeting to determine interest, assign volunteers, identify areas of concern in the communities, and carry out other appropriate start-up activities.	Champion with Community groups, homeowners associations, Sheriff's Department	Months 1-3	National Crime Prevention Council: Starting a Neighborhood Watch http://www.ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf/neighborhood-safety/nwstart.pdf
2. For each neighborhood where a program will be established, select a resident to serve as the neighborhood watch chair.	Neighborhood watch committees	Month 4	US Department of Justice: Neighborhood Watch Manual https://www.bja.gov/Publications/NSA_NW_Manual.pdf
3. Establish lines of communication between all neighborhood watch committees in the communities.	Neighborhood watch committees	Month 5	
4. Solicit volunteers from the communities to support neighborhood watch activities.	Neighborhood watch committees	Month 5	San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/home.aspx
5. Establish partnerships with the Sheriff's Department for training, information sharing, and resources.	Neighborhood watch committees, with support from Sheriff's Department	Month 6	San Bernardino County Public Works (for sign installation)
6. Post signs notifying people of a neighborhood watch program.	Neighborhood watch committees	Month 6	http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/home.aspx
7. Conduct regular training sessions, information sharing, and meetings.	Neighborhood watch committees	On-going	
8. Monitor the effectiveness of neighborhood watch programs, and make revisions to program operations as needed.	Neighborhood watch committees	On-going	