

# HOW TO OBSERVE

“**W**e Look Out For Each Other” is the key to Neighborhood Watch success.

Observation, looking out for each other, happens through diligent practices. Suspicious activities can be observed by seeing, hearing or smelling out of the ordinary happenings.

Here are 10 good tips on how to observe:

## Trust Your Judgement

- 1) Recognize and understand what you are observing. Practice observations techniques. As you understand what is happening, make your judgment calls. Recognize when to call for help. If your judgment (instinct) tell you something is not right **CALL IMMEDIATELY – DON’T HESITATE!**

## At Home

- 2 Observe from your home. Whether you live in a house, a mobile home, an apartment or a condominium, you are the one to determine which locations are best for observing normal and suspicious activity. Ideal locations for observing include, but are not limited to all areas surrounding your property like windows, doors and garden areas.

## Practice

- 3 Practice. Practice. Practice. Like any technique, practice makes perfect. Use your head to assimilate all you are exposed to and evaluate what you see and hear. No athlete, no pilot, no book-keeper, not anyone, can perform up to their utmost without practice. You will learn a great deal in your Neighborhood Watch training. Practice what you learn.

## Knowledge

- 4 By knowing who belongs in each house, their hours of work, their automobiles, helpers who come into their homes regularly, you can observe what is happening in your neighborhood and easily become suspicious of anything that does not fit your neighbor’s habits. This information should be available from your **National Neighborhood Watch Institute (NNWI) Family Data Sheet Summary.**

## Secrecy

- 5 If something suspicious is happening look out for your neighbor. Use your senses and call your local law enforcement agency. Remember, you are not the strong arm of the law. Don’t confront a suspect — **Call your police or sheriff.**

## Vehicle or Bicycle

- 6 Observe by vehicle or bicycle. You must rely on your knowledge of **Suspicious Activities, Sounds and Smells**. Practice what is needed to report a Suspect Vehicle or Person. Practice license number memorization and the phrase, "**She Simply Could Not Have Had Any Really Good Early Warning About Him**" and its meaning (see page 17.) Be alert and be prepared to call your police or sheriff if you recognize anything suspicious.

## On Foot

- 7 Observe on foot as you walk or jog through your neighborhood. Commit as much as your **NNWI Family Data Sheet Summary** to memory as you can. Memorize the check lists of Suspicious Activities and Sounds. Be alert to anything unusual happening in your neighborhood. Know your neighbors and your neighborhood. Practice what you have memorized by mentally reviewing what you know as you pass each neighbor's home.

## Be Prepared

- 8 Prepare yourself by having binoculars. These are especially useful in rural and low-lit areas. A cellular phone will be useful in some areas, a CB or radio in others. If you are patrolling, which many Neighborhood Watch groups do, these are especially important. Apply an NNWI Magnetic Door Sign on your vehicle.

**R**emember you are **not** the strong arm of the law.

## At Night

- 9 Observe at night by looking around the periphery of the subject. Look in all directions high and low and both sides of your subject and your view will be sharper. Also, prepare yourself by having a small, powerful flashlight, if you need to use it without arousing suspicion. Mag-Lite® is an especially good brand.

## Recorded Notes

- 10 The written or recorded word, with dates and times noted as the events occur (contemporaneously), is crucial to your reporting and following up on the criminal activities of any suspects. Your memory is clear when you note, immediately, what you see, logging the time of your notes. If you remember something else later, note it also, with the time. Make notes of anything you might feel is important to report to your local law enforcement agency. Always keep a recorder or paper with you. Remember to have fresh batteries and something to write with.

**S**uspect Something?

**Call Immediately!**

**Don't Hesitate**