



BLOCKWATCH



Safer Communities, One Block at a Time

Block Watch Captain/Co-Captain Responsibilities

Block Captains and Co-Captains are the liaisons between the Vancouver Police Block Watch office and their participating households. As a Block Watch leader you should have a genuine interest in preventing crime in your neighbourhood or complex. You will need to be available to listen to and communicate with the participants in your group. In order to be a Captain you should have a good understanding of Block Watch and be comfortable promoting it to your neighbours.

The division of responsibilities are interchangeable and decided between the Captain and Co-Captain.

Applicants will need to pass and maintain a VPD Police Information Check and work within the VPD Block Watch [Code of Conduct](#).

GETTING STARTED: NEW BLOCK WATCH GROUP CAPTAINS AND CO-CAPTAINS

- Canvas the approved block/complex to explain the Block Watch program and encourage neighbours to participate.
- Create and maintain a communication chain, i.e., contact list of all participating households.
- To complete the activation of your group, within six months of attending the Captain/Co-Captain training, organize and host an introductory First Meeting/Training session in your neighbourhood/complex. The Block Watch Constable will attend, train your participants, offer a free site security assessment, provide a review of the crime in your neighbourhood and identify the locations of your Block Watch signs. The meeting can be held at the Captain or Co-Captain's home or another suitable indoor location.

ONGOING DUTIES FOR NEW AND ESTABLISHED BLOCK WATCH GROUPS

- Maintain a Block Watch list of participating households. Update the list as required and at least annually for your group. Submit updated participating household list to the VPD Block Watch office every second year, by November 30th.
- Email your group relevant property crime and suspicious activity information as you become aware of it from your group, the VPD or other resources, in a timely manner. Treat all information received with respect and privacy. Keep the VPD Block Watch Constable informed of the issues in your neighbourhood by email. Victims / witnesses will first report incidents directly to the police and THEN alert the Block Watch Captain/Co-Captain who shares the information with the group and informs VPD Block Watch.
- At least once per week, review the public [VPD GeoDASH website](#) for reported crime. Email issues of interest to your participating households in a timely manner.
- Organize an annual meeting and/or block party to help your neighbours get to know each other. Invite a police officer or local Community Policing Centre representative, if desired.
- Set a good example by initiating and practicing home security and target hardening measures in your own residence.
- Welcome new residents to your group by explaining the Block Watch program and encouraging their participation of VPD Block Watch Suspect Identification Training.
- You can ask to be connected with Block Captains in your neighbourhood to share information.
- Every 5 years, refresh your Police Information Check and attend a Captain/Co-Captain training session.
- On resignation, a Block Watch Captain/Co-Captain is asked to identify their replacement and notify the Block Watch office of the change.