



# Knox County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch

Sheriff Tom Spangler



Knox County Sheriff's Office  
Special Services Division  
Neighborhood Watch Program  
400 Main Street, Knoxville TN  
37902



- **What is Neighborhood Watch?** Neighborhood Watch is a program that promotes proactive law enforcement by establishing an interactive crime prevention program between law enforcement and the neighborhood as a whole.
- **What will an Active Neighborhood watch program do for a Neighborhood?** The program subscribes to the theory that if the neighborhood: Implements techniques that decrease the chances of becoming a crime victim and works with law enforcement to reduce crime and works together in a small geographic area by watching out for each others property, then citizens will actively participate in a reduction of neighborhood crime rate. This proactive program is effective in reducing crime and it puts the “neighborly” spirit back into the community. This creates cohesion between neighbors that causes individuals to watch out for each other.



- **What should a Neighborhood Watch Group do to become active?**

A neighborhood watch group should have an initial meeting with the Knox County Sheriff's Office Representative and then establish the following to become an active group:

- A coordinator
  - Block Captains (optional)
  - A neighborhood directory
  - A neighborhood map
- The coordinator oversees the program and works closely with the block captains. The number of block captains recommended is determined by the size of the neighborhood. Block Captains may not be necessary if email or a social media platform is the primary communication between residents and the coordinator. The neighborhood directory should include the following for everyone residing in the neighborhood.
    - Names of each household member
    - Home address
    - Cell/Work telephone number (to be reachable during the day)
    - Email address

- **Coordinator Responsibilities**

- Oversees the operation of the neighborhood watch program. Notifies residents when any type of crime has occurred in the area.
- Initiates meetings and socials to get to know neighbors
- Works with Sheriff's Office to communicate information to residents

# Things A Burglar Won't Tell You

- **Of course I look familiar, I was just here last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new appliances.**
- **Hey! Thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.**
- **I love those flowers! That tells me you have taste...and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming systems they have. Those are easy to sell!**
- **Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway and I might leave a pizza flyer on your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.**
- **If it snows while you are out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Clean snow in the driveway is a dead giveaway.**
- **If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if its set. That makes it too easy.**
- **A good security company alarms the window over the sink and the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.**
- **Its raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable, but understand this.. I don't take a day off because of bad weather.**
- **I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. P.S. Don't take me up on it.**
- **Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.**

- **Here is a helpful hint, I almost never go into kids rooms.**
- **You are right : I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if its not bolted down, I will take it.**
- **A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you are reluctant to leave your TV on while your gone, you can buy a timer.**
- **Sometimes I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I don't want to look like a crook.**
- **The two things I hate most .. loud dogs and inquisitive neighbors.**
- **I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he will stop what he is doing and wait to hear it again.**
- **I'm not complaining but, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?**
- **I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs you are home. I will drive or walk through your neighborhood at night before you close your blinds.**
- **Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. Its easy to know you are gone.**
- **To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in fresh air but it is also an invitation.**
- **If you don't answer when I ring the doorbell, I might kick it in. Just yell and say I will be right there. I will leave, I don't want to talk to anyone anyway.**

**Sources - Convicted burglars.**

# **KNOX COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE NUMBERS**

**NON EMERGENCY - 215-2444**

**FARRAGUT NON EMERGENCY - 865-675-3210 (MON-FRI DAYSHIFT)**

**MAIN NUMBER - 865 215-2243**

**SHERIFF TOM SPANGLER - 865-971-3901**

**KNOX COUNTY JAIL - 865-215-2476**

**LEIDS - 865-215-2244 (Records Division)**

**FAMILY CRISIS UNIT - 865-215-6820 (MON-FRI DAYSHIFT)**  
**865-215-2243 (AFTER HOURS)**

**TRAFFIC/STREET SIGNS - 865-215-5800**

**NARCOTICS DIVISION - 865-215-4281**

## **Monthly Crime Activity by Patrol Zone**

See monthly crime activity in your area by accessing the following on the Knox County Sheriff Website

----Go to [knoxsheriff.org](http://knoxsheriff.org)

----Scroll about half way down the page to the Knox County map showing patrol zone numbers

----Click on the patrol zone you wish to access

----Click on “click for monthly activity within this zone”

----See list which is alphabetized by category

For additional assistance:

Crime Analysis Unit

[diu@knoxsheriff.org](mailto:diu@knoxsheriff.org)

# Operation Identification

## *What is Operation I.D.?*

Operation Identification is a concerted major effort of crime prevention which is being conducted nationwide by Law Enforcement Agencies.

This program is designed for citizens to make their property more identifiable to law enforcement officials if it should be either lost or stolen. By engraving or marking your valuable items, theft can be deterred in two ways.

1. A thief is discouraged from stealing property because it is more difficult to sell
2. It is much easier to catch and prosecute a criminal if he or she is discovered with damaging identifiable evidence in his or her possession

By identifying your property, you not only discourage theft, but also greatly increase your chances of recovery should your property be lost or stolen and recovered by someone else or another agency.

## *How does the Program work?*

1. Obtain the Property Inventory Forms from the Knox County Sheriffs Office. (included in packet)
2. When you use your drivers' license number as the identifier, engrave TN in front of the number. If Operation ID is being performed for a non profit, you can use TN and Tax number. You may want to engrave the number in such a location that it does not depreciate the value of property.
3. Record all serial numbers
4. Take photos of items that cannot be marked on for ID later
5. Place the decals which will be provided by KCSO in locations where they will be seen by potential thief. Also keep a copy of the inventory in a safe location.

If you are burglarized, contact the Knox County Sheriffs Office and be prepared to furnish all serial numbers, makes and models of missing items.



