



What is Vertical Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch is simple: keep your eyes open around your neighbourhood and, if you see anything suspicious - people, vehicles or activities - call the Police by dialling 911.

Vertical Neighbourhood Watch (or “Vertical Watch”) is Neighbourhood Watch in vertical neighbourhoods: apartments and condominiums.

Vertical Neighbourhood Watch is neighbours helping neighbours, by watching out for them to discourage and prevent crime from occurring. The “Golden Rule” of Vertical Neighbourhood Watch: You watch out for your neighbours and your neighbours watch out for you. Vertical Neighbourhood Watch is also neighbours helping the Toronto Police Services, by being their extra “eyes and ears” to report crime and practice crime prevention.

If you see something that is either (a) a crime taking place, or (b) out-of-the-ordinary and suspicious: Call 911.

Vertical Neighbourhood Watch is only as active as you are.

When to call 911	Less Urgent Calls to Police
<p>Call 911 only when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's urgent and important: a crime may be in progress and police, ambulance or fire assistance is needed right away. • Someone's health or safety is at risk. 	<p>If you don't need urgent help but need to call the police to give them information or ask questions, call Toronto Police Services at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 416-808-2222 and ask to be transferred to your local Toronto Police Services Division Office.

What to do to organize your neighbours into a Vertical Neighbourhood Watch Group

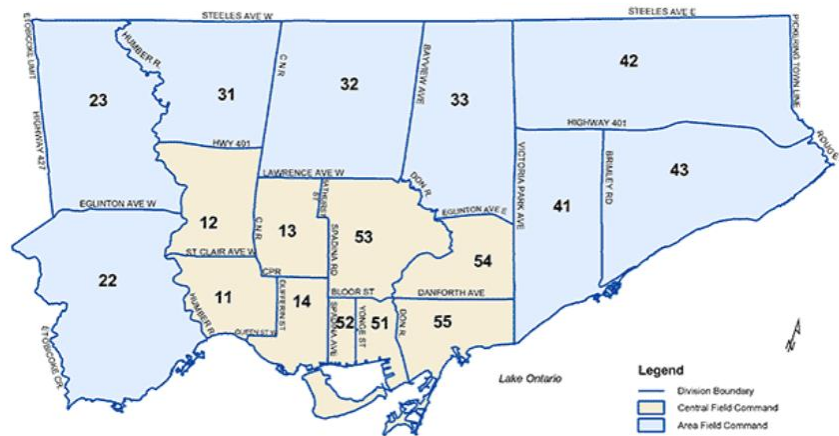
To Get Started, it's simple:

1. Reach out to your neighbours on your floor and in the rest of your building.
 - a. Talk to them and drop off or email them a copy of this info sheet to let them know what's involved;
 - b. Vertical Neighbourhood Watch is all about building upon the community that you already have. If you already have a condo association or tenants association, use that group to communicate the benefits of a Vertical Neighbourhood Watch Group in a newsletter or on bulletin boards. If you don't yet have a tenant

association, starting a Vertical Neighbourhood Watch group can be the defining event to start one.

2. Exchange contact information:
 - a. exchange phone numbers and email addresses so you can easily communicate with your group;
 - b. create a “map” of your floor with those names, phone numbers and email addresses; and
 - c. create a group email chain or private Facebook page for your immediate neighbours.
3. Find out what Toronto Police Services (“TPS”) Division you live in and contact the Crime Prevention Officer(s) in your area:
 - a. Check the [Toronto Police Services Divisions map](#):

Command and Divisional Boundaries



- b. When you learn your Division, go to the [TPS map webpage](#) and click on the link for that Division. You will be taken to a page that gives the contact info for the Crime Prevention Officer(s) in your Division.
- c. Your Crime Prevention Officer can give you information on:
 - i. crime issues in your neighbourhood and how to respond to them;
 - ii. who is your neighbourhood’s representative on the **Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC)** in your Division. Your CPLC is a committee with members drawn from various residents’, tenants’, community and business associations. They meet every few months with Toronto Police Services Officers in your Division to provide feedback on community policing and crime prevention. If your condo or residents association does not yet have a representative, consider getting appointed to be their representative.

Once you are up and running:

1. Get and share information about crime statistics in your neighbourhood.
 - a. Toronto Police Services collects statistics on crime activities across Toronto. Those statistics are available through the webpage and app: [Toronto Police Service Crime App \(Year to Date\)](#);
 - b. Consider subscribing to Toronto Police Services Community Alert Crime Prevention Bulletins:
 - i. first: [sign up](#); and then
 - ii. manage your subscription by subscribing to the bulletin from your TPS Division.
2. Vertical neighbourhoods are often at risk because of the way the building and its surroundings were designed. That design can be changed to be safer by adding lighting, reducing blind spots or using other architectural tricks to solve security problems. Ask your Crime Prevention Officer about having Toronto Police Services do a **CPTED audit** of your building. CPTED is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design¹ and can offer suggestions as to how to make your building and its immediate surroundings not only be safer but also feel safer.
3. Get and share information about what you can do to prevent crime in your building. Please see the resources on our website at [CrimePreventionTO.org](#)
4. Let us know about your group and your activities.
 - a. Let us know what you are doing by emailing Info@CrimePreventionTO.org.
 - b. In 2018, we're going to try to map every Neighbourhood Watch and Vertical Neighbourhood Watch Group in Toronto – stay tuned to our website for updates;
 - c. Consider joining our [Neighbourhood Watch Toronto](#) Facebook group.
5. Keep watching out for one another!

Words of Wisdom from Jane Jacobs

from "The Death and Life of Great American Cities", 1961

"...there must be eyes upon the street, eyes belonging to those we might call the natural proprietors of the street."

¹ For more information on CPTED, visit <http://cptedontario.ca/>