



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 by 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.

NEW CAPTAINS AND CO-CAPTAINS GETTING STARTED

- Canvas the approved block / complex to explain the Block Watch program and encourage neighbours to participate.
- Create and maintain a communication chain / contact list of all participating households.
- Within six months of attending initial Captain/Co-Captain training, organize and host an introductory first meeting / training session in your neighbourhood/complex to activate your group. The meeting can be held at the Captain or Co-Captain's home or another suitable indoor location.
- Organize the VPD Block Watch police officer to attend and complete a security assessment of the neighbourhood or complex. (optional)

ONGOING DUTIES FOR NEW AND ESTABLISHED BLOCK WATCH

- 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 directly to the police and THEN alert the Block Watch Captain who alerts the group and informs VPD Block Watch.

- Maintain a Block Watch list of participating members. Update as required and at least annually for your group. Submit updated list to the VPD Block Watch office every second year.
- Review the weekly [VPD Crime Stats, GeoDASH & Heat Maps](#). Email issues of interest to your participating households in a timely manner.
- Organize an annual meeting and / or block party to help your neighbours 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.
- Offer your members VPD Block Watch training opportunities to increase the effectiveness of your group.
- Welcome new residents to your group by explaining the Block Watch program and encouraging their participation of VPD [Block Watch Participant Suspect Identification Training opportunity](#).
- Connect with and share information with other Block Captains in your neighbourhood, if desired.
- Attend an initial mandatory Captain / Co-Captain training session and a refresher session every five years.
- On resignation, a Block Watch Captain / Co-Captain is required to identify their replacement and notify the Block Watch office of the change.

For more information, please email BlockWatch@vpd.ca or call 604.717.2857