

THE ROLE OF THE BLOCK WATCH CAPTAIN AND CO-CAPTAIN

The roles of the BLOCK WATCH CAPTAIN and CO-CAPTAIN are frequently misunderstood. The BLOCK CAPTAIN and the CO-CAPTAIN are not the people who are responsible for keeping crime out of the neighbourhood; being alert to crime and trying to prevent it is everyone's responsibility. Nor does the BLOCK CAPTAIN or the CO-CAPTAIN have to patrol the area, or be responsible for everyone's house keys or watch their homes during vacation.

The primary function of a BLOCK CAPTAIN and CO-CAPTAIN is to act as a **COMMUNICATION LINK** between Block Watch participants and the Block Watch office within the Coquitlam R.C.M.P. Crime Prevention Unit.

The responsibilities of the Block Captain and the Co-Captain include:

1. Contacting new neighbours, who move in the area, to see if they are interested in registering with Block Watch Program.
2. Making sure the Block Watch map or group list is updated with current names and phone numbers when necessary. (A copy of the updated map/list should be sent to the Block Watch office. If requested we will be pleased to make photocopies of the map either at the Main Detachment or any of the Community Police Stations.)
3. Receiving newsletters and requesting new information for distribution to the other Block Watch participants.
4. Encouraging Block Watch participants to communicate with each other. It is not solely the responsibility of the Block Captain or Co-Captain to "spread the word" about suspicious activities in your neighbourhood. However a Block Captain and Co-Captain may need to encourage residents to call other participants on the block when information needs to be communicated. (To avoid being the only person who is relied upon for communication, the Block Captain and Co-Captain can create a fan out telephone or email system which does not place a heavy burden on any one individual.)

Serving as a Block Captain or Co-Captain is not time consuming, and you do not have to be home at all times in order to volunteer. Although they are responsible for making sure the above activities are performed for their Block Watch area, they do not personally have to perform them all. Others on the block can be asked to assist with any or all of them.



Crime Prevention is everyone's
responsibility.