

## Bear Mountain Neighborhood Watch Newsletter 1

An attempted burglary was reported on Stanley Park Road in December and the Bear Mountain HOA is working to re-establish a Neighborhood Watch-type program, called Bear Mountain Neighborhood Watch (BMNW). We had a program in the 1980s after two local burglary sprees, but it has become inactive. Generous volunteers will be serving as committee members to facilitate the program and they will serve as contacts for homeowners if criminal or dangerous activity occurs within or near our area.

Be observant and please use common sense! If something does not seem right and makes you *reasonably* suspect that a potential crime might be involved, take the actions outlined below! If you're unsure, call anyway, as the Sheriff would much rather check out an occasional false alarm than miss preventing or minimizing a potentially dangerous situation from developing. If you are still unsure whether you should call 911, call a coordinator and discuss it.

### Bear Mountain Neighborhood Watch Alert Protocol

**High Alert:** Anyone in BMHOA believes that they, nearby residents, or properties are in **imminent** danger. Examples include: uncontrolled fire nearby (within 10 miles); criminal activity (ongoing burglary, assault, property damage); predator attack on a person, pet or livestock; arcing power lines down within the area.

#### Action, in order of steps to be taken:

1. Call 911
2. Call one of the BMHOA Neighborhood Watch Committee members.
3. If the danger is specific to a small area, the resident making the report should also use the telephone tree and call close neighbors to alert them. Meanwhile, the notified Committee member calls remaining Committee members to activate the entire BMHOA phone tree.
4. Post event on Nextdoor.com; direct email notices to the BMHOA e-mail list

**Medium Alert:** Anyone in BMHOA believes that they, nearby residents, or properties may be in **moderate** danger. Examples include: suspicious persons/vehicles; predator animals (bears, cougars, aggressive coyotes) sighted in the BMHOA area; distant fires (more than 10 miles away); power lines down but not arcing

*[NOTE: in some cases 911 should be called about suspicious persons/vehicles, if there is reasonable belief there may be criminal activity.]*

#### Action, in order of steps to be taken:

1. Call 911, depending on situation.
2. Definitely call one of the BMHOA Neighborhood Watch Committee members.

3. Committee member calls remaining Committee members to activate the appropriate phone tree branches (e.g. entire phone tree if suspicious individuals/vehicles or distant fires are sighted; appropriate branches for predators)
4. Post event on Nextdoor.com; direct email notices to the BMHOA e-mail list

**Low Alert:** A resident of BMHOA gains information worthy of sharing with some or all of the residents of BMHOA. Examples include: threatening telephone calls; mailbox theft/damage old enough that the perpetrators are unlikely to still be in the area; abandoned car

**Action:**

1. Call one of the BMHOA Neighborhood Watch Committee members.
2. Committee member calls/emails other Committee members
3. Post event on Nextdoor.com; direct email notices to the BMHOA e-mail list

Of course this program cannot guarantee that no crimes will occur, or that you will never be victimized. It can, however, discourage potential criminals from doing anything in our neighborhood and might help catch anyone who does commit a crime here. This will NOT be a vigilante group. We will not be patrolling the roads and certainly not confronting suspicious persons.

If you plan to call 911, get as many details as possible, such as a license plate number, a description of a vehicle, and a description of people if you see them. Get as many useful details as possible without endangering yourself. A description of 'White SUV' is nearly worthless. 'White Chevy Yukon with broken left tail light' is more useful. 'White Chevy Yukon with broken left tail light, Colorado plate number XYZ 123' is very useful. 'Scruffy young guy' is marginal. 'Scruffy young guy, tall and thin with red hair and beard, has tattoos, wearing a green parka' is very useful.

Participating in Bear Mountain Watch does *not* give you *any* law enforcement authority. All residents who see a crime in progress or notice suspicious activity should carefully observe and report from a place of safety. You should not confront an offender unless you are in immediate danger. This applies to you and your neighbors. We absolutely do not condone anyone trying to apprehend an offender or interfering with an incident other than to report the activity to the sheriff! If you choose to get involved in any other way, you are on your own; the BMHOA and NW committee take no responsibility for your actions.

**Future BMNW goals under consideration:**

1. Install BMNW signs in the neighborhood as a deterrent to would-be criminals
2. Advise on appropriate private property signs/decals stating owner

- participation in BMNW crime watch program or other household security measures
3. Create decals for all BMHOA members to post on their car rear windows to make it easier to determine whether a car belongs to a visitor or a resident
  4. Organize visits by the Jeffco Crime Prevention Deputy to educate residents on current crime-related issues.

**Neighborhood Watch Committee members:**

- John Burghardt 303-670-5974
- Randall/Donald Palmer 303-670-9166 (Committee chair)
- Jim Peterson 303-674-8370
- Steve Reed 303-674-1665
- Sherry/Tom Walker 303-670-4578
- Susanne/Paul Wurster 303-670-6060

Please keep these important documents in a handy place. If you are a dues paying member and you do not have a HOA Directory, let one of the BMNW committee members know. If you have not paid your dues, please do so or let a committee member know and we will provide a phone tree list for your use.

We welcome your suggestions on issues you think need to be addressed.