



Community Watch Newsletter



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Our Mission

The mission of the Bonner County Sheriff's Office Community Watch Program is to proactively partner with law abiding citizens to prevent and reduce crime. This will be accomplished through communication, crime prevention education and assisting communities, neighborhoods and businesses in achieving a safe environment for its residents.

Greetings to all of the Bonner County Community Force Block Watch Captains!

Thank you for stepping up in your area of Bonner County and taking a leadership position in your local block watch group.

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PROBLEMS WITH DOGS

Some of you may already have information on this topic but it's just a friendly reminder for you and your Neighborhood Watch members. For dogs at large and barking dogs, Bonner County has an Ordinance, Title 10 (Animal Control). For these problems, please take the following steps:

- 1) Inform the dog owner. The person may not realize there is a complaint.
- 2) Contact BCSO Dispatch at 265-5525, if the problem continues. Tell Dispatch the problem and give them the address of the owner. A deputy will then give the owner a written warning, advising them of the ordinance and enforcement procedures.
- 3) Report to BCSO Dispatch again, if the warning notice didn't work. A deputy will respond and fill out a citation and you will sign it. You may have to go to court to prove your case, so try to obtain photos and/or audio of the violations. The deputy will then serve the citation, which has a \$100 fine.
- 4) If the violations continue, go through the same process as above.
- 5) If the violations still continue, BCSO will go through the same process as above, but the fine rises to \$200 and now becomes a misdemeanor crime.

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Beginning in late March of 2017, a quarterly newsletter will be produced by Craig Nelson, Mary Gore and me, Jim Corcoran. We will construct a quarterly newsletter to provide watch captains with information on crime prevention, crime statistics, a bit of humor, and many other associated issues. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform Block Watch Captains and others of on-going crime issues, address Captain's concerns, and pass along other pointers to help captains have an active and interesting Block Watch group. Thank you for taking this trailblazing position. Below are bios of each of the people mentioned.

Craig Nelson: Eagle Scout, past volunteer work with Boy Scouts of America, 32 years law enforcement in King County, WA. 1+ year volunteer with Bonner County Sheriff, Volunteer with the preservation of the historic Cabinet Idaho Cemetery.

Mary Gore: Worked as Legal Transcriber for the San Luis Obispo County Attorney's Office in San Luis Obispo, CA (5 years) worked as a Crime Victim Compensation Caseworker/Advocate for Yavapai County Attorney's Office in Prescott, AZ (8 years). Worked as an Intake Specialist for the Bonner Homeless Task Force, Harmony House Domestic Violence Shelter in Idaho. (7 years). Has volunteered in Bonner County for approximately 10 years (5 years at Panhandle Animal Shelter and 5 years at Sanctuary Second Thrift Store for the Cat Sanctuary in Careywood, Idaho)

Jim Corcoran: Volunteered 15+ years as block watch captain in N.E. Seattle, attended the first Seattle Police Academy in Feb. 1997, served on the Community Policing Action Council for 2 years in Seattle, painted out graffiti by himself for 10+ years in N. E. Seattle, logger, commercial fisherman, cowboy, mechanic for 30 years, lobbied for gifted children in Seattle for 10+ years, head of Seattle Gifted Children's Friends for 10+ years, Sagle Fire Department, 6 years, Forrest M Bird Charter School Board member, 7 years, board member of the Panida Theater, 3 years, and almost 1 year with the Community Force Block Watch organization.



Watch Captains Questions and Answers

This newsletter is as much yours as it is the Community Watch Program. As such we want to ensure you have an opportunity to ask questions and get answers to issues you may have. The questions will remain anonymous but the issues and discussion will be an important part of our communication and education process.

Call or email your question to Sheryl Kins at skins@bonnercountyid.gov. It will then become part of the next newsletter.



Question: Recently during a power outage I was unable to call out on our cordless telephone and we are not in an area that has cell service. What can I do in the future?

Answer: Note, that when the power goes out, your cordless telephone will not work because it requires it be plugged into an outlet and your phone jack to work.

However there is a remedy for that. Before the next outage, purchase one of those inexpensive phones that has a cord. They do not require electricity to work and get their power through your phone jack. Plug the cord into the phone jack and you will be able to make your call.



Humor in Uniform

"Pull Over!"

A policeman spots a woman driving and knitting at the same time. Driving up beside her, he shouts out the window..."Pull over!"

"No., she shouts back, "a pair of socks!"

The New Recruit

Police Chief: "As a recruit, you will be faced with some difficult issues. What would you do if you had to arrest your mother?"

New Recruit: "Call for back up!"

Survival Techniques if at a theater and there is an active shooter:

Being able to protect yourself in an active shooter situation begins with having a good sense of what's going on around you. Knowing your environment is one of the most important safety precautions you can take in any situation.

Before entering any public place, you want to look at its surroundings. If anything looks out of place, or your gut tells you something isn't right, **listen to your instincts and leave.**

Find the Exit Points Wherever you go

Part of being aware of your environment means knowing how to get out when things go bad. Upon entering any new area, the first thing you want to do is look for every possible escape route and exit that you can find. If things go bad, this one action could mean the difference between life and death, and is something that should never be overlooked.

AVOID HIGH PROFILE EVENTS

The madmen who commit these crimes are looking for attention. Lone shooters and terrorist organizations are both looking for media attention, and high body counts. They are more likely to attack people during high profile events, so when possible:

- Avoid opening night events
- Avoid sold out shows and concerts
- Avoid high-profile events, and politically charged rallies

DON'T MAKE YOURSELF AN EASY TARGET

If you do go to a large event such as a movie, a concert, or some sort of rally or sporting event, make sure you choose seats that are situated near an exit. The last place you want to be during a shooting is stuck in the middle of a crowd, or in the middle of a row of seats. Don't make yourself stand out from the crowd in any way. Make sure there are no obstacles standing in your way of making a quick escape.

REPORTING ON ANIMAL ABUSE, NEGLECT OR ABANDONMENT

It is the responsibility of the Bonner County Sheriff's Office for all domestic animal-related calls. Neglected or abandoned domestic animals that require sheltering and veterinary care are the most expensive calls. Barking or dogs running loose are the most common calls. There were 610 animal cases in 2015, including 14 animal cruelties and 1 animal bite.

If you believe someone is abusing or neglecting any kind of animal, try to obtain all the evidence you can, i.e., if you know the person, get their name and address, if not, get a description of the person and location of the incident. Write down date, time and type of abuse, neglect or abandonment. For example: A horse or other farm animal without food or water, a dog chained up and can't get to food or water, someone beating, tormenting or torturing an animal. If you have a cell phone that takes photos or videos, do so. Call Dispatch at 265-5525 and give them as much information as possible.

DOGS IN HOT CARS

If you see a dog in a locked or unlocked car in the summer heat you should note that even if it's 70 degrees outside - the inside of a vehicle can reach over 110 degrees within minutes and temperatures go higher as minutes go by and leaving windows cracked open in a vehicle does not eliminate the danger of heatstroke, brain damage or death to the animal. You should call BCSO Dispatch at **208-265-5525** and give a description of the car, license number, location and description of the animal. If the owner appears, do not be confrontational or interfere, as you could be held liable (Example: If you broke the vehicle window to free the animal). If possible, stay at the scene until an officer arrives. If the owner of the dog leaves before the officer arrives, give the information you have to the officer.



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TRUST YOUR GUT!

If a situation seems odd, if something seems out of place, or your gut tells you something isn't right, **listen to your instincts and don't wait around to find out what happened.** We have instincts for a reason. A number of people interviewed after a recent shooting in recent Colorado event had a bad feeling when they saw the shooter enter the building, yet most of them brushed off their feelings and reasoned that it was probably some sort of publicity stunt for the movie. Even after the shooter started firing, a number of people said, they still thought "it had to be part of the show."

Surviving and active shooter situation

Should the unthinkable happen, and you find yourself in the middle of an active shooter situation, there are a couple of things you can do to increase your chances of survival.

1) Escape is your first line of defense.

This is first and foremost on the list of options. In an active shooter situation, the first thing you want to do is try to escape. Once you hit the exit, keep going. Distance is one of the keys to surviving the situation. You may have to fight through a crowd. Make sure you are fleeing toward safety, rather than blindly running away from danger.

2) Barricade and taking cover

Taking cover means moving away from any possible harm. If you can't safely remove yourself from the situation, the next best option may be to take cover. Chairs and tables do not provide cover, only concealment. Hiding under such object should be your last option. If you have to hide find a solid barrier like a concrete wall or heavy metal object.

Do not hide in restroom either. Any place with only one entrance or exit should be avoided because of limited escape routes if the shooter makes entry.

3) Medical Responses

Paramedic will generally not come into a scene like this until it has been determined that the shooter is neutralized or no longer on the premises. Can you imagine how long it will take for the police to search and clear an entire mall? If you are injured, you will likely be waiting awhile for help so being trained in basic first aid will be helpful.

4) When left with no option – Attack!

Critics of this option will probably argue that you should never try to attack a shooter. But if you're in a situation where there's no place to run, and no place to seek cover, what other option do you have?

The fact is, in an active shooter situation you often have very few options. Laying there frozen in fear does nothing to add to your chances of coming out alive. If you have no other options, you need to act quickly and decisively to try to take out the shooter. If you have a weapon, then hopefully you have trained for this type of situation to defend yourself.

After the attack, get to safety.

Once you have exited the building or removed yourself from the situation **-DO NOT DROP YOUR GUARD.**

- What if the shooter returns?
- What if there are other shooters waiting outside the exits?

While these types of incidents are extremely rare, they do happen and they are something that we must be prepared to respond to.

Note - The police are not likely to stop the shooter. You must take care of yourself as there simply will not be time for the police to save you.



