



Version: February 6, 2014

Los Olivos – Riker Neighborhood Watch (LORNW)

[Guide to Citizen Patrol](#)

Statement of Purpose and Objectives

LORNA Neighborhood Watch (LORNW) is a key activity of the Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Association (LORNA). The purpose of this Guide to Citizen Patrol is to provide personal safety guidance, in addition to patrolling and reporting guidance to members who patrol in LORNA neighborhoods. The primary objective of Citizen Patrol is to observe, assess and report suspicious, inappropriate or criminal activity in LORNA neighborhoods.

LORNA Citizen Patrol does not give its members authority to confront or to take action against any person. Confrontation or interaction with individuals during suspicious or criminal activities is beyond the scope of Citizen Patrol and is specifically discouraged. This Guide to Citizen Patrol will aid Citizen Patrols to assess suspicious activities, and inform them how to report their observations to authorities should it become necessary, and how to alert people in LORNA neighborhoods as an alert for their safety.

[Safety Guidelines](#)



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- Your personal safety must always be your first consideration while on Citizen Patrol, just as it is when you simply walk through your neighborhood at any other time.**
- NEVER confront anyone whom you suspect is engaging in suspicious, inappropriate or criminal activity.**
- In suspicious situations, always be aware of Scene Safety. That means you should observe your surroundings as there may be accomplices who are involved in the suspicious activity, but who are observing from a position away from the scene. Make a note of license plates and descriptions of people and cars that you suspect may be involved in the suspicious activity.**
- Citizen Patrols shall not enter private property “in pursuit of” suspicious persons, or “to investigate” suspicious activity.**

Patrolling Guidelines

- Your role in Citizen Patrol is to observe and report suspicious, inappropriate or criminal activities that you observe while patrolling.**
- LORNW recommends that Citizen Patrollers do not carry weapons.**
- LORNW recommends that you wear a reflective safety vest displaying the LORNA logo while patrolling. Some people may feel uncomfortable, or may feel “too conspicuous” wearing a safety vest, or a vest displaying the LORNA Logo. Wearing a safety vest (or not) is a personal decision. If you’re uncomfortable wearing a safety vest, don’t wear one, but continue to follow the other guidelines for patrolling, with emphasis on having a heightened awareness of your personal safety.**
- LORNW recommends patrolling with a partner, or in a group, though this may not always be feasible due to each person’s personal schedule. But even in groups, heightened safety awareness must always be observed when patrolling.**



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- Always carry a pen and small notebook with you. Keep emergency and non-emergency phone numbers handy in your notebook. If possible, carry a cell phone for quick reporting if suspicious occurrences arise. If you can carry a small camera, or a cell phone camera with you, photographs are an excellent way to document activities, suspicious vehicles, license plate numbers, etc. that may be helpful at a later date. Use discretion when photographing people. Some people may confront you and ask why you're photographing them, though you have a right to do so on public property. If asked by someone not to photograph them, the prudent thing to do is to stop photographing in order to avoid a confrontation.**
- Make friends with neighbors in your area as they can be helpful resources when they see you patrolling. Invite them to join Neighborhood Watch and to take part in keeping the neighborhood safe and free of criminal activity.**
- Vary your patrolling route and routine so that your patrolling activity doesn't become predictable.**
- Become familiar with street names in your neighborhood so you can quickly report your location in an emergency situation.**
- Make an effort to be aware of your neighbor's personal vehicles. As you get used to seeing normal cars and normal activity in the neighborhood, it becomes easier to recognize something that is "out of place".**
- High times for residential burglaries are in the morning after people leave for work, and after lunch when people return to work. These are particularly important times for patrols to be watchful of suspicious activity.**
- Take note of unfamiliar people or vehicles that linger in your neighborhood. They may be "casing" your neighborhood to observe times when people are away from home. People have been known to knock on doors until they find a house with no one home, and then break into the house through a back or side door or window.**
- Take note of school age kids (often with backpacks) who walk through your neighborhood during normal school hours. This could qualify as a suspicious activity.**



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- Take note of suspicious people or suspicious vehicles that may not reach the level of reporting, but that you may want to watch out for in the future if they return.
- If you are home during the day, pick up your mail when it arrives, or shortly after. Neighbors have reported mail theft of outgoing and incoming mail from their mailboxes. If you are away during the day, consider depositing your outgoing mail in a secure mail box and installing a secure mail box for incoming mail.

Reporting Guidelines

Emergency or Crime-In-Progress Reporting

- Try to stay calm.
- Move to a location out of harm's way.
- Call 911.
- If you reach a recording, listen to what it says. If the recording says your call cannot be completed, hang up and call again. If the recording says that all call-takers are busy, stay on the line until the next call taker can answer your call.
- When calling from a cell phone, the emergency call taker may ask you for your location so they can transfer you to the appropriate 911 emergency facility in your area.
- Report who you are - Los Olivos-Riker Neighborhood Watch Citizen Patrol - to the call taker. You may choose to give your name, but you are not required to give your name if you are uncomfortable doing so.
- Report your location.
- Briefly report the suspicious activity.
- Answer questions asked by the 911 operator. Some of his or her questions may seem unnecessary, but operators are required to follow a questioning protocol when answering emergency calls.



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- Be prepared to report important details of what you have observed.
- Write notes relating to the incident in your notebook, particularly the date, time and location, for future reference if you are contacted later by authorities.
- Report your experience to lornawatch@gmail.com. Alerts will be sent out to LORNA members who are signed up for email alerts.

Non-Emergency Reporting

- Non-emergencies include, but are not limited to suspicious broken windows, loitering, persons drunk in public, but who are not an immediate danger, etc..
- When appropriate, call the non-emergency crime reporting line, the anonymous crime tip line, the graffiti tip line or the anonymous drug tip line. Phone numbers are shown at the end of this document.
- Record the time, date and location of the suspicious occurrences in your personal notebook for future reference.
- Report your experience to lornawatch@gmail.com. Alerts will be sent out to LORNA members who are signed up for email alerts.

Important Phone Numbers

911	Emergency: Crime-in-Progress
758-7321	Non-emergency crime reporting
758-7250	Watch Commander
800 782-7463	Anonymous Crime Tip Line (24 hours)
800 473-7847	Anonymous Drug Tip Line
758-7926	Report Graffiti



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Helpful Websites

Salinas Municipal Codes and Ordinances:

[http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?
clientId=16597&stateId=5&stateName=California](http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=16597&stateId=5&stateName=California)

Salinas Police Dept.:

<http://www.salinaspd.com/>

Salinas historical crime statistics:

<http://www.salinaspd.com/statistics.html>

Sex Offender Registry – Enter state and city, then hit search:

<http://www.familywatchdog.us/ShowMap.asp?frm=0>

U. S. Dept. of Justice - Crime category definitions:

http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2007/about/offense_definitions.html

City of Salinas “Who do I call?” link for various city inquiries:

<http://www.cityofsalinas.com/who2call.cfm>

LORNA Website:

<http://lorneighborhood.com/>