

GENERAL GUIDELINES - OLDE POINT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PATROL

- The patrol's visible presence serves as a deterrent to criminal activity. Patrols should be conducted in random fashion (time and route), rather than repetitively. Patrols should be conducted after sunset, and at relatively low driving speeds (15 mph).
- Beyond showing a presence, the patroller's only purpose is to observe and report. Patrol members are not to become involved with a suspect, or challenge anyone.
- Patrol members have no police power. Each patrol member is liable as an individual for civil and criminal charges in the event that a patroller exceeds his or her authority.
- Should you come upon a crime in progress, or a situation where there is an immediate threat to someone's personal safety, dial **9-1-1** immediately. Provide the location and description of the incident. Other situations that warrant calling 9-1-1 are serious accidents involving injury, the immediate need for an ambulance or paramedic, a heated or violent dispute, or fire or smoke coming from a structure, vehicle, or wooded area.
- The Pender County Sheriff's Department "Non-Emergency" number is **910-259-1212**. This number should be used to report incidents and situations that you consider serious enough to require police involvement, but are not immediately threatening to personal welfare. Examples are:
 - Suspicious persons, vehicles, or events that do not clearly indicate crime
 - Destruction of property (after the act)
 - Noise ordinance violations
 - Motor vehicle accidents not involving injury
- The Pender County Animal Control number is **910-259-1349**. Use this number to report serious animal problems such as:
 - a person bitten by an animal
 - an aggressive animal loose in the patrol area
 - an injured animal
 - cruel or inhumane treatment of an animal
- Patrol members shall not pursue vehicles or suspects, or attempt to enforce traffic laws.
- Patrol members shall not carry firearms, night-sticks, mace, or any type of weapon.
- Patrol members shall not patrol under the influence of intoxicants.
- Patrollers should take notes on all suspicious situations. Notes may later become important as evidence should the situation become a criminal matter. Notes should be neat and legible. A copy of the incident report should be given to a Watch Coordinator. The original document should be kept on file for one year.