

THE WOODLANDS WATCH

Neighborhood Watch Program

COORDINATOR NOTEBOOK



**A Sense of Community...
A Safe Community**



THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP
2801 Technology Forest Boulevard • The Woodlands, Texas • 77381
281-210-3800 • neighbor@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov

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The Woodlands Watch

Healthy, Vibrant Neighborhoods

The mission of The Woodlands Watch is *A sense of community, a safe community, through education and partnerships.*

The neighborhood watch program also encourages reporting any suspicious activity to law enforcement immediately. A strong neighborhood watch deters residential crime.

Educated and alert neighbors are in an excellent position to observe any unusual activity on their street. They make it a point to know who lives on their block, which houses are unoccupied during the day and who is on vacation.

The **basic** neighborhood watch program encourages citizens to secure their own homes and personal property. Some fundamental examples of safety tips would be:

- Know your neighbors
- Lock your car doors
- Remove valuables from your vehicle
- Close and lock garage doors when you're not outside
- Lock your home doors and set your alarm if you have one

Report any suspicious activity to your local law enforcement when it is happening.

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Woodlands Watch Coordinator

Neighbor knowing neighbor is the first step in crime prevention!

All Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Help to educate and inform your neighbors about the services available in their community.
- Encourage people to sign up for WoodlandsAlert to receive public safety information.
- Encourage neighbors to know and look out for one another.
- Encourage your neighbors to become Watch members and to report suspicious activity.
- Help Neighborhood Services coordinate an event in your neighborhood.
- Encourage your neighbors to use *Service Request* on The Woodlands Township's Web site to report problems and make other requests.

Additional Area Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Meet your Neighborhood Coordinators.
- Pass information on to your Neighborhood Coordinators after confirming through your Program Specialist.
- Fulfill the responsibilities listed above for your subdivision.

Additional Neighborhood Coordinator Responsibilities:

- Get people together on your street and encourage them to know one another.
- Get to know the other Neighborhood Coordinators in your subdivision.

The Woodlands Township Staff – Program Specialist Responsibilities:

- Teaches residents how to be proactive when it comes to crime prevention in their neighborhoods.
- Works with your Village to coordinate the Watch Program.
- Updates your Watch Report as you report changes to your Program Specialist.
- Helps direct residents to the correct person and or agency to provide information needed.
- Creates and mails invitations and invites public safety officials to your scheduled events.

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Take a Stand Against Crime

What types of crimes do we have in The Woodlands?

The most common crimes in our community are crimes of opportunity. These include:

- Burglary of Motor Vehicle (BMV) ***The number one crime of opportunity in our community!***
- Burglary of Habitation
- Vandalism/Criminal Mischief

How can these crimes be prevented?

- Lock your vehicle doors. The majority of BMVs involve vehicles that were unlocked at the time of the theft. If possible, park your vehicles in a locked garage. Do not park on the street.
- Do not leave items in your vehicles. If you do leave items in your vehicle, put them out of sight.
- Use motion detector lighting in your driveway.
- Lock the doors to your house and keep your garage doors closed.
- Do not open the door to any stranger.
- Know your neighbors.

How can a watch program help reduce these crimes?

- A Neighborhood Watch is an effective way to reduce crimes of opportunity because it is about *neighbor knowing neighbor*. Knowing our neighbors fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area residents, providing extra eyes and ears for reporting crime.
- Through a Neighborhood Watch, residents learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activity that raises their suspicions to their local law enforcement.

What are examples of suspicious activities?

Report these incidents to local law enforcement.

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking in windows of houses and/or parked cars.
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home or from closed businesses.
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- Business transactions conducted from a vehicle, especially around a school or park where juveniles are involved.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.

What do I have to do as a Watch Member?

Be alert!

- An alert neighbor knows who lives in the neighborhood and can recognize strangers.
- Observes any unusual activity in your neighborhood
- Knows which houses are unoccupied during the day and who is on vacation
- Learns how you can make yourself and your community safer.
- Immediately reports suspicious activities and crimes to local law enforcement.
- **Calls 9-1-1 in an emergency!**

Although some suspicious activity in your neighborhood could have an innocent explanation, **law enforcement would rather investigate the situation than be called when it is too late to prevent a crime.** Don't worry about appearing nosy or foolish. **Your call may save a life, prevent an injury or stop a criminal act.**

What should I do about solicitors?

- Solicitation is not a crime. It is not illegal to solicit in The Woodlands. As a resident you make the choice of whether to listen to and/or buy from a solicitor. However, a solicitor is a stranger! **DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR!** Ask the solicitor to leave your property. If the stranger refuses to leave after being told to do so, call local law enforcement. Explain that you have asked the stranger to leave your property and what the stranger is doing that makes you feel threatened, uncomfortable and/or suspicious.





10 Simple Rules to Help Prevent Crime

Below are 10 easy things you can do that will make you and your family safer

- 1. Call law enforcement *as soon* as you see something suspicious.**
Don't worry about appearing foolish because you are not sure what you have seen is actually criminal. It is always better to err on the side of caution.
- 2. The best place for your vehicle is the garage.**
If you must leave it outside, make sure all doors are locked.
- 3. Don't leave anything of value inside your vehicle.**
Although most vehicles are unlocked at the time items are stolen out of them, in the minority of cases in which a thief actually breaks into a vehicle, there is usually a valuable item within view. Criminals don't want to risk notice by taking the time to smash a window or pry open a door, but they may do so if they are tempted by the sight of a GPS system or laptop computer.
- 4. Keep the doors to your residence locked throughout the day.**
Most residential burglaries take place during daylight hours.
- 5. Make sure your garage door is closed.**
It takes only seconds for a thief to enter a garage and steal valuable items such as tools and bicycles. An open garage door is also a prime way for a criminal to enter a home.
- 6. Don't open the door to anyone you do not know, including solicitors.**
From inside your home, tell the solicitor that you are not interested. For more on solicitors, see the back of this page, *Dealing with Solicitors*.
- 7. Paint your address on the curb in front of your residence.**
In case of an emergency, you want to make sure law enforcement and public safety personnel can find your house, not waste precious minutes looking for it. You can check out a free paint kit by contacting The Woodlands Township Neighborhood Services at 281-210-3800.
- 8. Sign up for WoodlandsAlert, our community notification system.**
WoodlandsAlert will provide you with urgent public safety information about issues such as criminal activity and emergency preparedness. Visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov and click on WoodlandsAlert signup.
- 9. Know your neighbors.**
Neighbors watching out for one another can be one of the most effective ways to prevent crime.
- 10. If your neighborhood doesn't yet have an active Woodlands Watch, our community's neighborhood watch program, contact The Woodlands Township Neighborhood Services at 281-210-3800 or at neighbor@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.** Our Program Specialists will provide you and your neighbors with the tools you need to get organized.

***Montgomery County Sheriff's Office 936-442-7797 (Most areas of The Woodlands)**

***Harris County Pct.4 Constable 281-376-3472 (Village of Creekside Park)**



Dealing with Solicitors

Soliciting is not illegal in The Woodlands, but by following the steps below, you and your neighbors can deter solicitors from doing business in your neighborhood.

1. The most important thing to remember is: **Never open the door to someone you do not know**. All communication with a solicitor or any other stranger at your door should be *through* the door. If you have a solid wood door and no window nearby, consider installing a peephole.
2. Make sure you have a **No Solicitors** sticker near or on the door. A **No Solicitors** sticker puts solicitors on notice that you do not want their business. If they ignore the sticker, point to it (from inside the house) and walk away. If you do not have a way to see the solicitor from inside your home, speak through the door and tell them to leave.
3. If the solicitor refuses to leave, state (from inside your house) **“Leave my property now. If you don’t, I will call the police”**. Although soliciting is not illegal, trespassing is. If you tell someone to leave your property and he or she does not, they are trespassing.
4. If the solicitor continues to harass you, call the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office* or the Harris County Precinct 4 Constables Office*. Report that there is a **trespasser** on your property who refuses to leave despite your request that he or she do so.
5. Don’t worry about hurting the solicitor’s feelings or making him or her angry. This person is invading your personal property. You have not asked this person to your home.
6. Don’t ignore a solicitor as a way of making him or her think that no one is home. The solicitor could be a potential thief who is ringing your doorbell as a way to see if the house is empty.

Keeping Your Home Safe When You Are on Vacation

Before you leave on vacation, make sure you take the following steps:

1. **Contact law enforcement to request a free Vacation Watch patrol.**
Residents of Montgomery County can call the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office*. In Harris County, contact the Harris County Precinct 4 Constable’s Office*. With a Vacation Watch, a sheriff’s deputy or constable will regularly drive by your home, check windows and doors, and investigate anything on your property that looks suspicious.
2. **Ask neighbors who can see your house from theirs to look out for anything that may look suspicious.**
At least one neighbor should know how to reach you in case of an emergency. If you are expecting anyone to be at your home while you are away, provide a description of these individuals and their vehicles.
3. **Make sure your house looks occupied.**
 - Cancel newspapers and put a hold on your mail delivery.
 - Ask a neighbor to take care of your trash cans on collection day and to check your house daily for any packages, flyers or other items that may be on your doorstep.
 - Keep several lights inside your home on timers.
 - Consider asking a neighbor to park his or her vehicle in your driveway.

***Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office 936-442-7797 (Most areas of The Woodlands)**

***Harris County Pct.4 Constable 281-376-3472 (Village of Creekside Park)**

Community Events

Keeping the Hometown Vision Alive

Call your Program Specialist to schedule one of the following:

Watch Meeting - a structured neighborhood meeting that introduces the roles of public safety agencies into the neighborhood, before emergencies occur. The meeting also facilitates the first step in crime prevention, neighbor meeting neighbor. Representatives from The Woodlands Fire Department, local law enforcement and Neighborhood Services staff participate. This same event can be recreated in neighborhood parks.

Park Watch Meeting - a proactive community effort to resolve resident issues, concerns, criminal activity, and to deter future crimes in a park and the surrounding neighborhood. Representatives from The Woodlands Fire Department, local law enforcement, Neighborhood Services staff and Park Rangers participate.

Good Neighbor Day - brings services of The Woodlands Township and various public safety agencies to the neighborhood, versus making the neighborhood come to the services. The Good Neighbor Day generally targets a specific street or area of streets. It facilitates neighbors getting to know each other. Additionally, they can register bicycles, fingerprint children, receive crime and fire prevention tips, 9-1-1 emergency information and learn more about their community, The Woodlands.

Emergency Preparedness Presentation - *Get Ready-The Woodlands*, teaches residents how to prepare for both natural and manmade emergencies using federal, state and county recommendations. Presentations may be held in a resident's home, at a central location in the neighborhood or brought to a community event.

Our yearly "Give Crime and Drugs a Going-Away Party":

National Night Out - a celebration of our community-police partnership and a culmination of the yearlong success of the efforts to build a safer and stronger community. It is a nationwide program held the first Tuesday in October in Texas. This annual event brings neighborhoods together: Neighbors meet their neighbors and public safety officials.



Additional Neighborhood Services Resources

House Numbering: Free paint kits are available for use in painting your house number on your curb, allowing easy identification by public safety personnel.

File of Life: Allows easy access to medical information for those with a chronic illness.

Woodlands Watch Keytag: This service, upon request, provides an adult Watch member a participant number engraved onto a keytag. These keytags facilitate the return of lost keys while obscuring the owner's identity.

Campus Watch and APSA (Actively Promoting Student Awareness): Promote crime prevention education for youth and open communication between students, administrators, campus and community police. This program includes all Junior and Senior High campuses in The Woodlands and is in partnership with the Conroe Independent School District Police and local law enforcement. Campus Watch and APSA address the specific educational and safety needs of our youth. Our goal is to promote a safe environment for students to learn. Campus Watch and APSA also initiate their own community service projects in the community.

Senior Events: Quarterly or monthly meetings for senior citizens held at local apartments. Activities may include fire safety, crime prevention or emergency preparedness education or medical guest speaker with a light lunch and games.

Apartment Watch: We facilitate a quarterly meeting for Apartment Managers. Activities may include fire and crime prevention education. Watch Meetings and Good Neighbor Days are scheduled as needed for residents at each complex.

Volunteer Directory: A resource to encourage residents to become involved in their community. It provides one-stop shopping for volunteer opportunities. The Volunteer Opportunities Directory can be found on The Woodlands Township Web site under the Neighborhood Services link.

McGruff: Crime dog available for appearances at local events promoting public safety. (Full-size costume)



Keep Connected

Ideas for activities to keep your neighborhood connected:

1. Mother's Day Out - meet at the park with your kids on Friday mornings, etc.
2. Pavilion Tickets- you can get free or discounted tickets (buy one, get one free, etc.)
3. Christmas caroling
4. Circulate a newsletter
5. Pool party
6. Theme dinner- Fajita Fiesta, Night in Italy, Backyard Barbecue
7. Dessert party
8. Organize a school volunteer group
9. S' mores party in the winter
10. Neighborhood Cleanup Day - organize a group to either pick up trash or to do yard work, then meet at a park or someone's house for a snack, barbecue, etc. Neighbors can chat while they're all out in their yards.
11. Bike riding excursion
12. Progressive dinner (holiday time or anytime)
13. Check out a paint kit and paint house numbers on the curb
14. Make a directory of the neighborhood
15. Host a Mardi-Gras Parade or Party
16. Have a neighborhood park cleanup day
17. Wine & cheese tasting
18. Form a Book Club
19. Form a Bunco group
20. Organize a regular sports outing, i.e. golfing, tennis, Bike Club, Running Club, etc.
21. Organize a Scavenger Hunt
22. Organize a Bike/Car Rally

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The Woodlands Watch Emergency Contact Information (Optional)

Please return to your Neighborhood Coordinator.

Your Neighborhood Coordinator will keep this information on file to be used for emergency purposes only.

Date: _____

Street Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email address(es): _____

Full names of all adults

Work Phone

Cell Phone

Full names of all children

Ages

Cell Phone

Pet's names

Special Instructions

Local person to contact in case of emergency (name, address, phone number(s):

Does your emergency contact have a key to your home? Yes _____ No _____

Your alarm code? Yes _____ No _____

Relative to contact in an emergency (name, address, phone number(s), relationship):

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Any other language spoken? _____

Medical needs, doctor/hospital preferences: _____

Schools your children attend: _____

Vehicles (make/model/color): _____

Others with access to your home (housekeeper, pest control, etc.) _____

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Vacation Information Form

Step 1. Fill out this form (this information is needed by the Vacation Watch Programs)

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Departure date & time: _____ Return: _____

Local Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____

Home/cell phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Does Emergency Contact have a key to your home? _____ Your Alarm Code: _____

Alarm Provider/Contact Number: _____

Are there going to be any lights left on inside or outside? _____

Are the lights on timers? _____

Will there be lawn care, pool or maid service while you are away? _____

Will there be any vehicles left at your home? (make, model, color) _____

Will there be anyone staying at your residence while you are away? _____

We can be reached at (location/phone): _____

From: _____ To: _____

And/Or: _____

From: _____ To: _____

Will there be any animals left behind at home or the kennel? _____

Animal Caretaker Name: _____ Phone: _____

Additional Information: _____

Step 2. CALL the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (936-442-7797) or the Harris County Constable's Office Precinct 4 (281-376-3472) to schedule an officer to check your home while you are away through their Vacation Watch Programs.

Step 3. Inform your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator of your vacation plans and leave this form with your Watch Coordinator or a trusted neighbor before going on vacation.

Vacation Checklist

- Leave your completed Vacation Watch Form with your Neighborhood Coordinator or a trusted neighbor. Always advise your Neighborhood Coordinator who has this information.
- Leave a House Key and your Alarm Code with the Emergency Contact listed on the form.
- Call the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office or the Harris County Constable's Office Precinct 4 to sign up for their Vacation Watch program. Please notify the MCSO or HCCP4, if your vacation plans change or you return early.
- Test your smoke detectors and alarm system before you leave. Notify your alarm company before testing.
- Advise your neighbors and friends that you will be away and that your Coordinator has Vacation Information. Ask them not to tell strangers (delivery persons, solicitors, etc.) of your absence.
- Arrange with neighbors to pick up newspapers and mail daily (do not stop all deliveries). Try to maintain the appearance of your normal routine. Ask a neighbor to use your garbage can and place it at your curb on collection day.
- Arrange for house, lawn, pet and plant care.
- Contact your veterinarian if your animals will be at home under the care of a neighbor.
- Empty and lock cars that will remain at home.
- Set automatic timers for lights and/or radio.
- Turn off or adjust water, water heater and thermostat.
- Disconnect TV and other small appliances.
- Turn down the volume of ringers on all telephones.
- Lock all doors and windows.
- Use discreet luggage tags that shield your name and address from casual observation.
- It is not necessary to advise your alarm company of your vacation plans, but do verify that your call list is current.

Best Practices

Watch Coordinators Reminders...

Rumor Control – We ask that, as a Watch volunteer coordinator, you assist us in rumor control. That is why we emphasize ACCURACY in the dissemination of all messages. Before you “spread the word” on an event that you’ve heard about or an e-mail you have received, please call our office for verification. We will work with local law enforcement to get you the most accurate information possible.

On the Web and E-mail Communication

The Neighborhood Services Department asks residents to sign up for WoodlandsAlert to receive public safety messages from Neighborhood Services.

Sign up for WoodlandsAlert at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov and click *Woodlands Alert Signup*. Be sure to select your preferences, which you may update at any time.

As an Area or Neighborhood Coordinator, you may choose to advise Watch members or other coordinators of important information.



2008 Public Information Act

DD. Section 552.127: Personal Information Relating to Participants in Neighborhood Crime Watch Organization

*Section 552.127 of the Government Code provides as follows:

(a) Information is excepted from [required public disclosure] if the information identifies a person as a participant in a neighborhood crime watch organization and relates to the name, home address, business address, home telephone number, or business telephone number of the person.

(b) In this section, “neighborhood crime watch organization” means a group of residents of a neighborhood or part of a neighborhood that is formed in affiliation or association with a law enforcement agency in this state to observe activities within the neighborhood or part of a neighborhood and to take other actions intended to reduce crime in that area.

There are no cases or formal opinions interpreting this exception. In an informal ruling, the attorney general found that section 552.127 excepts from disclosure the name, home address, business address, home telephone number, or business telephone number of individual participants in a neighborhood crime watch program.⁶⁷⁷ However, the attorney general also found that the name, address, or contact information of an organization participating in the neighborhood crime watch program is not protected under section 552.127 unless the information relates to or identifies an individual participant’s name, home or business address, or home or business telephone number.⁶⁷⁸

**The Public Information Act, section 552.127, can be found at www.oag.state.tx.us.*

Law Enforcement Agencies Serving The Woodlands

The Woodlands is served primarily by five law enforcement agencies: the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Constable's Office Precinct 3, Conroe Independent School District Police, Harris County Constable's Office Precinct 4 and the Harris County Sheriff's Office. These agencies are staffed by sworn certified law enforcement officers.

The **Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)** is a county wide agency covering all of Montgomery County. Most residents of The Woodlands reside within the boundaries of Montgomery County. MCSO provides a full service law enforcement agency to serve these residents.

The **Montgomery County Constable's Office Precinct 3 (MCCP3)** is also a county agency. It covers a portion of Montgomery County that includes the majority of The Woodlands.

The **Conroe Independent School District Police (CISDP)** is a sworn law enforcement agency that provides coverage for all CISD schools in The Woodlands.

The **Harris County Constable's Office Precinct 4 (HCCP4)** provides law enforcement for the Village of Creekside Park. This is the only village in The Woodlands located within Harris County.

The **Harris County Sheriff's Office (HCSO)** is a county wide agency covering all of Harris County. All residents of Creekside Park reside within the boundaries of Harris County. HCSO provides a full service law enforcement agency to serve these residents.

All of the residents of The Woodlands are also serviced by the **Highway Patrol** part of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). DPS is a state agency that you may see patrolling anywhere in the state of Texas.

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Home Security Checklist

Use this as a guide as you check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked "no" indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home's security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home is targeted.

Exterior Doors

Yes No

All doors are locked at night and every time we leave the house-even if it's just for a **few minutes**.

Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.

Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.

If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.

All entry ways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt lock installed into the frame of the door.

Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.

Garage and Sliding Door Security

The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a quality keyed door lock and deadbolt.

The overhead garage door has a lock so that we do not rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide security.

Garage doors are all locked when leaving the house.

The sliding glass door has a strong, working key lock.

A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.

The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.

Protecting Windows

Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.

Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.

Outdoor Security

	Yes	No
Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are no dark areas around our house, garage, or yard at night that would hide prowlers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Every outside door has a bright, working light to illuminate visitors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor lights are on in the evening-whether someone is at home or not or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Security When Away From Home

At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence, when we are away from home for an extended time period.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped or arrangements for a neighbor or friend to pick them up have been made when we go away from home for a period of time .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home when we are away.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property

Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are all locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gate latches, garage doors, and shed doors are locked after every use.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grills, lawn mowers, and other valuables are stored in a locked garage or shed, or if left out in the open, are hidden from view with a tarp and securely locked to a stationary point.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Every bicycle is secured with a U-bar lock or quality padlock and chain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuable items, such as television, stereos, and computers have been inscribed with identifying number approved by local police.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes pictures. A complete copy is kept somewhere out of the house.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Woodlands Fire Department Fire Safety Information/ Residential Fire Protection

Practice Safety

1. Smoke detectors on each level of your home.
 - a. We recommend one detector in each bedroom.
 - b. For battery operated detectors, when you change your clock, change your battery.
2. Fire extinguishers – 1 in garage and 1 in kitchen close to exits, ABC type.
3. Exit Drills In The Home (EDITH).
 - a. Make a plan – show two ways out of each living space.
 - b. Have a Meeting Place – outside in front of home.
 - c. Once out – stay out!
 - d. Practice your plan with your family.
4. General Housekeeping
 - a. Don't overload electrical outlets.
 - b. Check power cords for damage—don't run cord under rugs or across walk paths.
 - c. Candles – don't leave candle burning if unattended.
 - d. Don't store combustibles, flammable liquids or gasoline powered equipment within three feet of electrical panels or ten feet of natural gas appliances.

Programs

- File of Life – for people with life threatening illnesses or allergies and/or on life sustaining medications.
- CPR/First Aid Classes
- Bicycle Registrations
- Stations Tours
- Fire Safety for Senior Citizens
- Home Fire Safety – checklist
- Match & Lighter Safety for Preschoolers
- Fire Extinguisher classes – (commercial)
- Emergency Action Planning, Evacuation Planning & Implementation, and Fire Safety on the Job.

The Woodlands Fire Department is a first responder fire department, performing Basic Life Support as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) up to Advanced Life Support as Paramedics. For more information, please call 281-367-3444.

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How to Stay Informed in an Emergency

Prepare, Plan, Stay Informed – Visit www.Ready.gov.

To stay informed before, during and after an emergency, check The Woodlands Township Web site at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov, as long as electric power and Internet access permit.

Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management at www.mctxoem.org and Harris County Homeland Security and Emergency Management at www.readyharris.org will post emergency information for their counties.

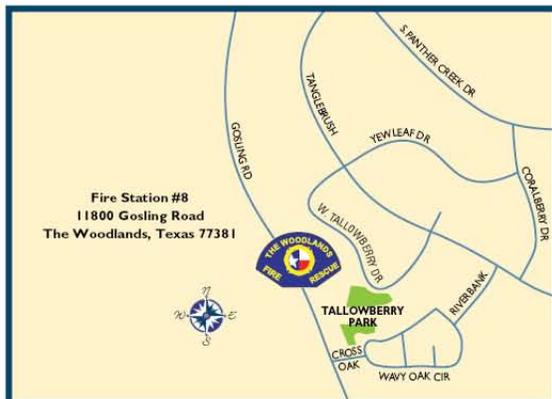
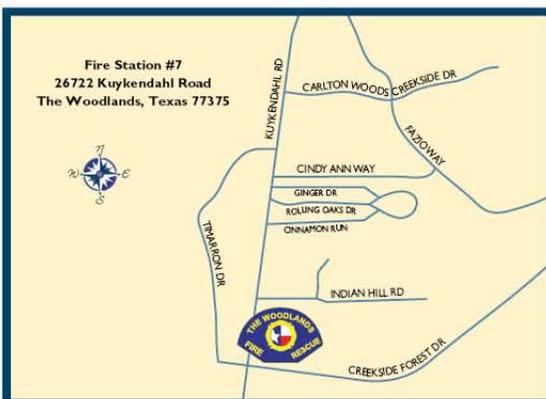
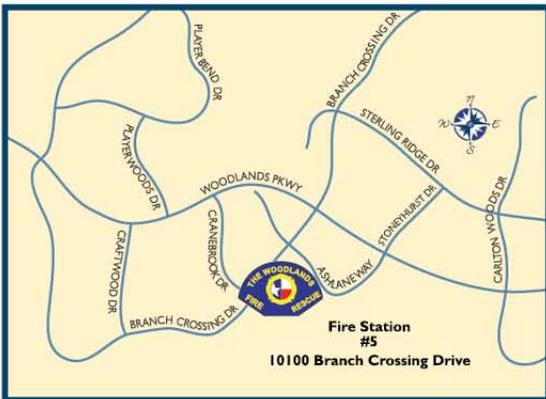
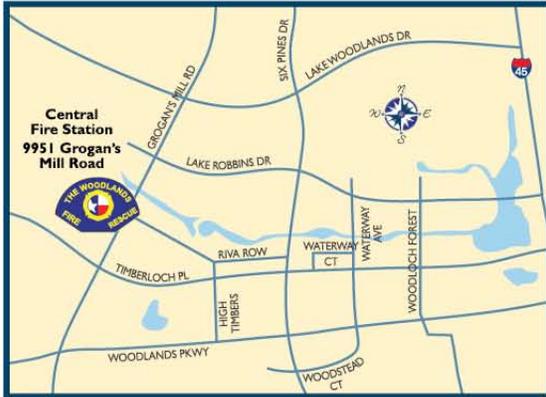
In addition, **The Woodlands Township has an agreement with K STAR Country, 99.7 FM radio, to broadcast emergency information specific to The Woodlands** in the event of a community-wide emergency.

In the event ALL communication efforts fail, residents may go to one of The Woodlands' eight fire stations. The Woodlands fire stations will have the latest updates and information available for residents.

Central Station and Administration Office – 9951 Grogan's Mill Road
Station 2 – 9303 Gosling Road
Station 3 – 1522 Sawdust Road
Station 4 – 7900 Bay Branch Drive
Station 5 – 10100 Branch Crossing Drive
Station 6 – 1100 Windsor Lakes Boulevard
Station 7 – 26722 Kuykendahl Road
Station 8 – 11800 Gosling Road

Prepare now, so that you'll be informed:

- Sign up for Woodlands Alert at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov and click *Woodlands Alert Signup*. Be sure to select your preferences, which you may update at any time.
- Sign up for emergency notifications, general notifications and severe weather warnings for Montgomery County by visiting www.mc911.org and clicking *CodeRED*.
- Sign up for emergency notifications or general updates for Harris County (Village of Creekside Park) by visiting <http://www.hcoem.org/> and clicking *Harris County Alerts*.
- Sign up for a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training class. Contact Rachel Andrews at The Woodlands Fire Department for more information at 281-210-5833 or visit www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/CERT.
- Call The Woodlands Township's Neighborhood Services Department to schedule a *Get Ready – The Woodlands* Emergency Preparedness presentation. This presentation includes the basic steps to get prepared as outlined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Join The Woodlands Watch and schedule your neighborhood presentation today by calling 281-210-3800.



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