

General Patrol Procedures

The use of Amity Township Crime Watch signs are not mandatory but are recommended unless stated otherwise by officers on duty. While on patrol, please make sure you fill out the patrol logs that are made available either at the meeting or on the web site.

Each patrol shall consist of a minimum of two people. As you begin your patrol you must call Berks County Communications Center at **610-655-4911**. Identify yourself as a member of ATCW and ask the Communication Center operator to have the Amity Township Police Duty Officer contact you by phone. Give the Communication Center operator the number of the cell phone you are using on your patrol. When the Amity Duty Officer calls, identify yourself and ask for any special instructions. **“ALL COMMUNICATIONS FROM CRIME WATCH MEMBERS WHO ARE ON PATROL TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL BE MADE BY CALLING THE 610-655-4911 NUMBER UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.”**

Patrol routes are determined by the patrol, unless advised by the Amity Police. Drive at a normal speed and vary the route, you do not want to be predictable or conspicuous. Continuous driving is not required. Patrols may remain stationary to observe activities for a reasonable length of time. Patrol breaks are allowed.

Report suspicious persons, vehicles, crime, contributing conditions, fires, accidents, existing or potential road hazards and stranded motorists to police **and** record on patrol log. Make note of as much specific information as possible, i.e., time, location, license plate number, make, model, color, direction of travel, descriptions of persons, number of persons, etc. These patrol log sheets are kept on file and can be of use at a later date. When both sides of these forms are filled out they should be turned into the secretary of ATCW – they can be mailed or brought to the meetings.

Assisting stranded motorists is up to the individual. Our preferred action is to notify the police and continue patrol. Never leave your vehicle on an assist without first notifying police of the full description of vehicle and occupants, along with exact location.

First on scene of an accident requires alertness and quick judgment. Report nature of accident, location and injuries (if any) immediately. Remain on the scene until help arrives. Cooperate with police and emergency personnel. Assist upon request only.

In case of a crime in progress, always maintain a safe distance. Never place yourself in any danger. Observe and report all activity. Report person or vehicles leaving the scene immediately. Note mode and direction of travel with descriptions. Use the same for an assault in progress, with the exception; you sound the horn to distract the assailant. It may or may not be effective.

All patrols continue for three hours; however, this is flexible, i.e., weather conditions, your schedule, etc. Your start and ending time is determined by you. At the end of your patrol, return any signs you may be using.

Please remember that the crime watch program is a non-physical cooperative citizen police program. It does not involve any physical confrontation, citizen patrol or vigilante type activity on your part.

We are all working hard towards helping the police maintain our safe township by being the extra “eyes and ears” so please remember that the Amity Township Crime Watch program is being conducted in cooperation with the Amity Township Police Department, but not by them. We are all volunteers and we sincerely thank you for the job you are all about to do.

Respectfully,
AMITY TOWNSHIP CRIME WATCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Revised August 19, 2010