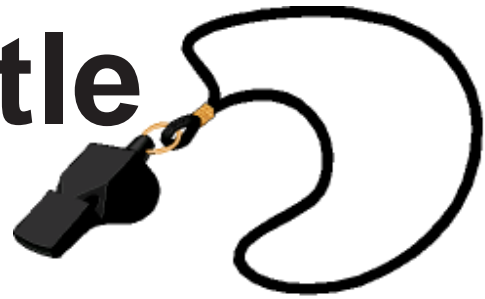




# Whistle Alert!



## WHAT IS WHISTLE ALERT?

Whistle Alert is an immediate means of communication whereby neighbors, "armed" with whistles, can signal other neighbors anytime they feel threatened. When participants hear the whistle, they know that they should respond.

Whistles can be used in every neighborhood. People feel more confident walking through their community when they have their whistles and know that they will be aided by neighbors if the need arises.

The Whistle Alert is a fast form of communication and can stop even the most serious crime in progress. When whistles are used, criminals are notified that crime will not be tolerated in the neighborhood.

## HOW DOES WHISTLE ALERT WORK?

Upon hearing a whistle, participants phone the police (dialing 9-1-1) then quickly go out onto the street towards the sound of the whistle. The purpose is not to physically intervene, but to scare the attacker by outnumbering him and creating a loud clamor.

The Whistle Alert works best when participants recognize the signal and know what to do when they hear it.

Groups using this system should conduct drills to assure that residents have accepted the idea, understand their roles and are willing to participate in the program. Dress rehearsals will assure that the system is in place before a real incident occurs. (Let the 9-1-1

dispatcher know when you will rehearse.)

Over 800 crime watch groups in Boston have adopted the Whistle Alert system. Here are some examples of how the system has been successfully used:

- In one neighborhood, all residents, including children, carry whistles. One day a bully attempted to steal a child's bike. The youngster blew his whistle, residents rushed out, the culprit was scared away and the bicycle was recovered.
- In another case, a man taking out his trash was accosted by a mugger in an alley. The man blew his whistle. A neighbor had her son call the police while she blew her whistle, prompting the neighbors to pour out into the alley and frighten the mugger away.

Whistle Alert has been especially helpful in neighborhoods where the residents speak various languages. In these areas, the sound of the whistle becomes a universal language.

**The Whistle Alert is effective only when neighbors, as a group, have agreed to carry whistles, have thoroughly discussed their use and have made a commitment to each other to respond to the cry for help.**

Even in neighborhoods where participants choose not to use a whistle, you can probably organize them to respond if they hear a scream or other cry for help.

For additional assistance please call or write:

Neighborhood Crime Watch Unit  
Boston Police Department  
1 Schroeder Plaza  
Boston, MA 02120  
(617)343-4345

**WHISTLE ALERT: HOW IT WORKS**  
**IF YOU ARE THREATENED**  
**1. BLOW YOUR WHISTLE AS LOUD AND AS LONG AS POSSIBLE**  
**IF YOU HEAR SOMEONE BLOWING A WHISTLE**  
**1. DIAL 9-1-1**  
**2. BLOW YOUR WHISTLE**  
**3. APPROACH**