The Participant Handbook: This handbook is designed to follow along with the “Observation Skills” Self-Paced Learning training CD. By writing down your answers you will retain more of the information found within the curriculum. Use this book as a reference guide and to review the curriculum before teaching Neighborhood Watch volunteers.

Course Objectives: Participants will:

• Learn the importance of being observant
• Learn observation skills that can be employed in Neighborhood Watch
• Understand that observation is the first step in reporting incidents or suspicious activities related to criminal activity or terrorism.
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What to Observe
List four primary areas of observation.

1. ___________________________________
2. ___________________________________
3. ___________________________________
4. ___________________________________

Observation Skills
Activity #1

1. Were there cars parked on both sides of the road? ______________________________
2. About how many cars were in the picture? _____________________________________
3. What type of car struck the pedestrian? ______________________________________
4. What color was it? ________________________________________________________
5. Was there a minivan? ______________________________________________________
6. What type of damage was there to the vehicle? __________________________________
7. How many pedestrians were in the picture? ____________________________________
8. How many occupants were in the vehicle and what did they look like?

Filtering
Name three of the major ways people filter information.

1. ___________________________________
2. ___________________________________
3. ___________________________________

Fill in the blanks.
Memories are ________________ and not ________________.
Observation – Getting the Details
Reword this question to get a more detailed description:

“How big was the getaway car?”

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

How to Observe People
Write down the five steps to good observation skills in observing people.

1.                                                                                     
2.                                                                                     
3.                                                                                     
4.                                                                                     
5.                                                                                     

Think of your favorite movie scene and write down a basic description of the lead actor(s).

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Using the basic description you wrote above, add some specific details.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What other events are occurring? Who else is affected? What is the overall situation?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

What details can you add about vehicles, witnesses, time of day, location of activity, or outcome of the incident?

______________________________________________________________________________
How to Observe Vehicles

One easy tool to improve your observation of vehicles may be as simple as picking up a guide from local car dealers on their types of vehicles or locating an automotive magazine like “Auto Trader” that would show pictures of all types of vehicles and provide brief descriptions. Can you think of any other tools that may help you and/or community members improve their skills?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Observation

Activity #2:

Using the list provided as a guide, write down as much information as you can about the crime you just observed.

1. Number of robbers ______________________________________________________
2. Description of robbers __________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
3. Number of witnesses _________________________________________________
4. Weapons (Style, type, caliber) __________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
5. Environment (inside, outside, day, evening, etc.) __________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
6. Other Details _________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

Improving Your Observation Skills

Fill in the blanks.

• Be __________________ and take your __________________.
• Pay attention to your ________________________________.
• Note the ____________________________________________.
• Observe the _______________________________ scene
• Be aware of people’s ________________________________.
Observation

Activity #3

Look at the artwork on slide 25 for 15 seconds. Then proceed to the next slide.

Without reviewing or returning to slide 25, draw the artwork as you remember it. After completing the picture, go to the next slide.

Activity #4

Answer the questions below.

1. Approximately how old was the man in the yellow shirt standing on the right side of the tree? __________________________________________

2. What color was the van? __________________________________________

3. What other suspicious activity should be reported? ______________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________
Post-Observation Actions

1. If possible, _________________________________ as soon as possible after the event.

2. Record the _________________________________.

3. If activities appear to be suspicious or illegal, ________________________________.