

NEIGHBORS IN ACTION

SAFETY TEAM GUIDELINES

The purpose of the following guidelines is to define the objectives of the Neighbors In Action (NIA) Safety Team and responsibilities of its members. The guidelines are intended to protect the safety and liability of volunteer members. Observance of these guidelines is necessary to participate in the Safety Team.

1. All volunteers of Neighbors In Action Safety Team (“Safety Team”) must be at least 18 years of age, submit an application, and attend an orientation to become a Safety Team member. Guests may participate by signing a “Hold Harmless Waiver” before going on a Safety Team shift.
2. Persons with limited mobility, including those who use wheelchairs, are welcomed to apply to participate in the Safety Team.
3. Safety Team members agree to respect the rights, differences, and dignity of all community members. The behavior of each team member is representative of the entire Safety Team; therefore it is important to convey a positive and peaceful attitude.
4. Safety Teams are extra eyes and ears in the community, not law enforcement personnel. Safety Teams observe and report illegal and/or suspicious activity as well as unsafe conditions. Confrontation is strictly prohibited and intervention is discouraged. In the event all Safety Team members agree that intervention is necessary and safe, assistance may be provided.
5. Friendly conversation with people in the community is encouraged while on a Safety Team shift.
6. Safety Team members function as a team and at no time will members separate into groups of less than three while on a shift.
7. Safety Teams must observe activities from a safe distance, which will be determined by all members of a Safety Team. If any team member believes the Safety Team is approaching an unsafe or uncomfortable situation, that member must signal their team members quickly and clearly to stop. The other team members must immediately respect their fellow team member’s wishes.
8. If members of a Safety Team witness an emergency, they must call 911; if all members of a Safety Team believe they are witnessing illegal activity, they are encouraged to call 911.

9. Safety Team shifts begin and end at Midtown Global Market Security Desk (920 E. Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407).
10. To ensure the safety of the Safety Team, at least one member must carry a charged cell phone, and a member must notify 911 of the general location, number of members, and tentative duration of the shift. 911 will also be notified when the shift is completed.
11. Safety Team members are requested to commit to a two-hour shift per month.
12. Safety Team members are expected to be punctual as others are counting on their presence.
13. Dates and times of Safety Team shifts will be released monthly and sign-up will be made available to members. Safety Team members should sign up for a shift at least 24 hours in advance. If a Safety Team member is unable to attend a shift they signed up for, that member should contact the shift leader at least 24 hours in advance.
14. At the start of each Safety Team shift, volunteers are encouraged to inform the shift leader of any conditions that may impact their participation or require special attention.
15. Safety Team members determine the route by identifying areas that need attention or should be avoided.
16. Dogs are welcome if they are kept under control by their owners and interact calmly with others.
17. No weapons are allowed on Safety Team shifts.
18. Safety Team members must be substance free; no intoxicating substances may be consumed before or while on a shift.
19. Safety Team vests will be worn by Safety Team members only while participating in or representing the Safety Team.
20. A Safety Team Report must be completed at the end of each shift.