



BLOCK WATCH®

An Informative Newsletter for British Columbia Published Monthly by the Block Watch Society of BC.

www.blockwatch.com

OPERATION RED NOSE

Operation Red Nose is a unique program dedicated to the fight against impaired driving. Essentially, it is a volunteer driving service provided during the Christmas Holiday Season to all motorists who have been drinking or who do not feel fit to drive their own vehicle. It is an original way of getting a safe ride in one's own vehicle without getting behind the wheel and... it's free.

For more information check out:

<http://www.rednose.bc.ca/>

KAMLOOPS RCMP – LAUNCH SCAM INFORMATION LINE

The Kamloops RCMP launched a new service in the community aimed at raising awareness and educating residents on the various types of scams out there. This program will run out of the Crime Prevention Unit with trained volunteers possessing an enhanced level of security answering the phone during business hours. Any person calling after hours is encouraged to leave a message. The RCMP would ask any resident who has been approached by an unknown person or company via the internet, telephone or mail, who is asking you for personal information or wanting you to send them anything of value, to be very cautious.

Any person with questions regarding any scam they have been approached on, or have heard about, can call the Kamloops RCMP Scam line at 250-828-3266.

Source: <http://www.bc.rcmp.ca>

Block Watch

News December 2010

BURNABY RCMP – LAUNCH BUSINESS WATCH PROGRAM AT BRENTWOOD TOWN CENTRE

Chief Superintendent Rick Taylor in partnership with Brian Wong, the Manager of Brentwood Town Centre, launched the Business Watch Program to the shopping centre's merchant community.

The Business Watch Program is a crime prevention initiative which focuses on improving information sharing and reporting of suspicious activity amongst the retail community and police. Chief Superintendent Taylor said, "Crime prevention programs such as the Business Watch Program play an important role in the detachment's Crime Reduction Strategy. Engaged citizens who are involved in public safety are often the eyes and ears of the community. We look forward to expanding this program into neighbouring malls."

Source: <http://www.bc.rcmp.ca>

VANCOUVER - DRIVERS MORE WORRIED ABOUT OTHERS TEXTING THAN DRINKING

Many Canadian drivers see texters as a bigger threat to their safety than drinkers, according to a recent Canadian Automobile Association survey.

The poll showed that 88 per cent felt drivers texting or e-mailing posed a very serious threat, while driving after drinking alcohol was rated "very serious" by 83 per cent. (In B.C., 87 per cent felt texting while driving was a very serious threat, while the percentage who thought driving and drinking was a very serious threat was the same as the national average.)

DRIVERS TEXTING, continued

"Legislation alone will not solve the issue. Enforcement, along with public awareness and education, [is] required. It is a matter of society making the practice of texting while driving socially unacceptable," said Jeff Walker, the CAA's public affairs vice-president.

Source:<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Drivers+more+worried+about+others+texting+than+drinking/3834108/story.html>

SAFETY TIPS FOR HOLIDAY INDOOR & OUTDOOR LIGHTS

- Use Canadian Standards Association (CSA)-approved lights, cords, plugs and sockets that are marked for outdoor use or wet locations.
- Make sure outdoor circuits are equipped with an approved, weather-proof ground fault circuit interrupter.
- Keep electrical connections off the ground. Use eave clips or insulated staples, rather than nails and tacks, to hold light strings in place.
- Keep your tree at least three feet away from heat vents, baseboards and fireplaces.
- Use holiday LED strings inside, reducing the risk of fire.
- Make sure your artificial tree is not flammable.
- Keep metallic trees away from electrical cords or plugs.

Source:http://www.bchydro.com/safety/be_safe_at_home/safety_tips_for_holiday_lights.html

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY

Holiday shopping can be hectic enough without losing valuable possessions. The following crime prevention tips will help keep you a little safer this holiday season while shopping.

Park in well-lit, visible areas. Dark, secluded areas provide space and atmosphere for auto

crime and theft from auto. Remember it only takes seconds to break into a vehicle.

Remove detachable radios, cassettes and CD players. Theft from auto is a large problem. We need to take every opportunity to secure not only our vehicles, but also the accessories that make our vehicles more comfortable.

Remove or hide in your trunk all personal possessions before you reach your destination. Ensure that when you place your shopping bags into the trunk, you move your vehicle to a different parking spot before going back into the mall. If anyone is watching, they will assume that you are leaving the mall. Secure the windows, sunroof and doors. Keep the garage door opener out of sight as it can be used to gain entry to your garage and home. Do not leave change on the dash, in the console or in the ashtray.

Source:http://www.richmond.ca/safety/police/news/newsletter/1213_holidaysafetytips.htm

HOME SECURITY TIPS

- Ensure that all windows and doors (including patio, garage and any shed doors) are equipped with adequate locks.
- Whether home or not, keep front and rear entry ways well lighted and make certain your address is clearly visible.
- Record serial numbers and store this information in a safe place. [Engrave your valuables](#) with your B.C. Driver's License number.
- Avoid putting gifts under the Christmas tree or in other obvious locations, until the family opens them at Christmas.
- If you are going to be away for an extended period of time, make every effort to have your residence look occupied.

Source:<http://www.coquitlam.ca/Media+Centre/News+Releases/Safety+and+Prevention/Holiday+Safety+Tips.htm>