



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

www.blockwatch.com

NEW EXCESSIVE SPEEDING PENALTIES

As of September 20, If you are caught excessively speeding, you will automatically have your car impounded for seven days for a first offence, 30-days for a second offence, and 60 days for any subsequent offences within two years. You'll also pay to get your car out. Towing and seven days of storage will cost you at least \$210, a 30 day impoundment will cost around \$700, while a 60-day impoundment will cost over \$1200.

If Someone Else Gets Your Vehicle Impounded

The Motor Vehicle Act places ultimate responsibility on vehicle owners for the manner in which their vehicle is operated. Owners should set clear ground rules for anyone they let drive their vehicle.

There is no review of impoundments of seven days or less, but if a vehicle is impounded for 30 or 60 days for excessive speeding, an owner can apply to the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles for a review of the impoundment. You can get a 'Request for Review' form from any driver licensing office. Along with the completed form, you will need to provide proof of your identity and proof of vehicle ownership.

Source: http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv/speeding/ind_ex.htm

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BC CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP

The Annual Training Symposium from November 5th-6th features a multitude of workshops that further educate in crime prevention. The theme this year is "Back on Track." Some of the workshops featured are: "Evolution of Block Watch," "The Role of Victim Services in Crime Prevention," and "Response to Illegal Drug Operations."

To see the symposium brochure, click [here](#)

To register, click [here](#)

Source: <http://bccpa.org>

YARD SALE SAFETY

If you buy a used appliance, make sure it bears a CSA certification mark.

If you are caught selling items that fail to meet safety standards you can be held responsible if someone is injured due to a product you sold to them. The Hazardous Products Act provides for steep fines and prison sentences.

Some risky children's products often found at yard sales are:

- Cribs made before September 1986 don't meet current safety standards.
- Strollers manufactured before 1985 may not meet current standards.
- Baby walkers were banned from importation, advertising and sale in Canada as of April 2004.
- Since 1990, new regulations have made expansion gates safer. Accordion-style baby gates that are made of wood or hard plastic and have diamond-shaped openings and large V's at the top can no longer be sold in Canada.

Source: <http://safety-council.org/safety/public-safety/community-safety/garage-sales-and-yard-sales/>

LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS (IF ONE IS CAUGHT OUTSIDE)

If possible, head for a house, a large building or your car. Then shut all the windows and doors and stay inside. In a car, move away from a high location or trees, turn off the engine, put your hands in your lap (so you don't touch anything metallic), and wait out the storm. It's usually safe to come out after there has been no thunder or lightning for thirty minutes.

Otherwise, seek shelter in a depressed area such as a ditch, or a cave. Crouch with your feet close together and your head down, minimizing your contact with the ground to reduce the chance of being electrocuted.

To figure out how far you are from the lightning, count the seconds between the flash and the thunderclap. If you count fewer than five seconds, take shelter immediately.

Source: <http://safety-council.org/safety/public-safety/sports-and-active-living/safety-in-the-great-outdoors/>

FIREWORKS SAFETY

- Many Cities and Municipalities have banned fireworks, so be certain to check before you purchase any fireworks.
- Buy only from a licensed dealer
- Fireworks should only be handled by adults using EXTREME caution
- DO NOT use fireworks that appear to have loose fuses, appear old, or show signs of damage.
- Ignite one firework at a time.
- Bury certain firework devices (Roman Candles) up to half their length in a bucket of sand or earth.
- NEVER hold lit fireworks.
- If a firework doesn't go off, do not approach or pick it up for at least 30 minutes.
- DO NOT attempt to relight the device.
- After 30 minutes, immerse in water and throw away.

Source: <http://bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action>

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

- Improper masks can interfere with a child's vision or breathing.
- Swords, knives and other accessories should always be made of flexible material.
- Flimsy materials, flowing skirts and baggy sleeves can all be hazards around candles or flames.
- Children running across the street and off the sidewalks risk a collision with a motor vehicle.
- Unwrapped treats or those in loose packaging from unknown sources may be unsafe to eat.
- Look for costumes, beards and wigs that are labelled "Flame-Resistant."
- Nylon or heavyweight polyester costumes are best. Even so, "Flame-Resistant" does not mean fire-proof.
- Keep pets inside and away from trick or treaters and lit candles, especially if they are easily frightened or over excitable.
- Tell your children to stay in well-lit areas and only visit homes that have their outside lights turned on.
- Make sure they know never to go inside homes or cars.
- Examine the treats your children bring home before they start eating them. Throw out any treats that are not wrapped, have loose or torn wrappers.

Source: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/life-vie/halloween-eng.php>

