

Outreach - Contribution - Mobilization Commitment to Community Voices

Crime Prevention Week - November 1st to 7th, 2016

Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility



Creating Safer Neighbourhoods

Crime prevention is about reducing the opportunities for you, your family, neighbours and community from becoming victims of crime and violence. Crime prevention is about protecting property and teaching community members to be alert and aware. Crime prevention is about individuals working together to take on initiatives that help strengthen communities, and stopping activities that violate everyone's sense of safety and breaks communities down.

Building Community

- Get to know your neighbours. Become familiar with the neighbourhood routine. Be aware of strangers and look out for each other.
- Encourage outdoor activities; organize a neighbourhood event to create a sense of engagement and get to know your neighbours.
- Keep up to date on crime trends in larger community. Work together with your neighbors. Watch for suspicious and unusual behaviour in your neighbourhood.
- Get involved in a crime prevention initiative such as Block Watch, a program that brings concerned citizens and police together to create safer neighbourhoods.

Keeping Up Appearances

Well maintained yards create an appearance home owners care about their property and expect others to respect it too. Physical conditions like abandoned cars or overgrown vacant lots may contribute to crime.

- Ensure your fence and gate are in good repair. Keep your gate locked at all times. Install privacy slats in chain link fences.
- Maximize the ability to see and be seen. Do not let shrubs and trees become overgrown creating hiding spots. Avoid planting shrubs or trees that will interfere with visibility near windows and doors. Trim shrubs to well below window lines and trees up to 7 feet. Install exterior light fixtures with motion detectors or controlled by timers to turn on at night and off in the morning.
- Organize a community clean-up or beautification project. Assist seniors in your neighbourhood who may have difficulty maintaining their yards.
- When away for extended lengths of time, maintain an appearance of being at home. Install timers for lighting and radios. Make arrangements to have someone check-in on the house, maintain the yard, collect mail, newspapers and flyers.

Protecting your Home

- Doors: Outside doors and frames should be made of solid wood or steel. Install security rated locks and deadbolts on exterior doors – a good quality deadbolt lock should have a 1-inch throw and the strike plate should be installed with two 3 -4 inch screws. Lucite (high impact acrylic sheeting) can be used to cover glass areas, preventing glass from shattering if struck at. Install a wide angle viewer to see who is at the door before you open it. Keep doors locked at all times. Never hide spare keys outside the house.
- Windows: Close and lock all windows when you are not at home. Do not leave ladders, tools or objects that can be used to break windows or doors in the yard.
- Cover garage windows so people cannot look inside. If garage is attached to the home, keep interior garage door locked at all times. Never leave automatic garage door openers in a vehicle that is parked outside the home.
- Alarm systems may assist in deterring break and enters, but will not prevent one. Any alarm system should be installed along with good physical security reinforcements.

**Authored by BCCPA



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Preventing Auto Crime

- Never leave your keys unguarded, such as at the gym or at the office. Treat your keys like cash and keep it secure.
- Park in secure, well-lit areas near pedestrian traffic. Always lock doors and close windows, even if you're away from your vehicle for just a few minutes.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running - even for a few seconds.
- Remove possessions from your vehicle — shopping bags, tools, spare change, electronics, brief cases, etc. Put anything that could tempt a thief in the trunk.
- Wait for garage door gates to close behind you so thieves don't have a chance to get in the parkade.
- Keep your garage door opener with you and not left behind in your vehicle.
- Own an older vehicle? Consider using an anti-theft device, such as an electronic engine immobilizer or steering wheel lock.
- Do not store a spare or valet key in/under your vehicle.

Keeping Street Sense in Mind

- Stay alert and aware of into your surroundings wherever you are—at school or the mall, on the street, waiting for public transportation or driving.
- Send the message that you are calm, confident, and know where you are going.
- Do not accept rides or gifts from someone you do not know well or trust.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or situation and leave as soon as possible.
- Be alert in the neighborhood. Call police about anything you see that seems suspicious.

Additional Resources

Block Watch Society of BC - www.blockwatch.com

BC Crime Prevention Association - www.BCCPA.org

Local Community Policing / Crime Prevention Sections - RCMP: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca

or Municipal Police: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/bc-police-forces



BLOCK WATCH

Neighbourhood Safety Tips for Parents

- Know where your children are. Have your children tell you or ask permission before leaving the house and give them a time to check in or be home. When possible, have them leave a phone number of where they will be.
- Set limits on where your children can go in your neighbourhood. Do you want them crossing busy roads? Playing in alleys or abandoned buildings? Are there certain homes in your neighbourhood that you do not want your children to go to?
- Get to know your children's friends. Meet their parents before letting your children to go to their home and keep a list of their phone numbers. If you cannot meet their parents, call and talk to them and ask what your children might do at their house and if they will be supervised.
- Choose a safe house in your neighbourhood where your children can go if they need help. Point out other places they can go for help, like stores, libraries, and police stations.
- Work together with your neighbors and watch out for suspicious and unusual behavior in your area.

Apartment Safety

- Never allow strangers to enter your building without proper screening. Be aware of tailgaters trying to enter your building by following you in through the front door or parking garage.
- Use the intercom wisely. If you do not know the person do not buzz the door. If someone claims to have a delivery for you, go down to the lobby to let them in.
- Lock your patio door or windows when you are out of the room and at night to prevent a thief entering your suite. Use your suite door locks even if you intend to stay in the building or just take out the garbage.
- Do not store valuables in storage lockers.

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