



Rosamond Block Watch Party

Block Watch Captain Hanson Lau

"We had 16 (out of 40) houses at the party and everyone enjoyed the chat with Aux. Cst Dave Elder, and with each other."

"We want to thank Aux. Cst. Elder who came to give us a little talk at the Block Watch party. A big thank you also to Stephen Guthrie who walked with me delivering the invitations."

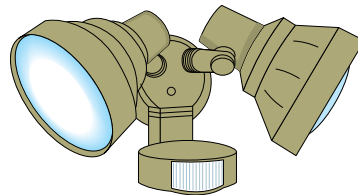
"Once again, thank you all for coming out and let's watch out for each other and keep Rosamond Avenue safe for our families."

Home Protection

Many Canadians fail to take even fundamental precautions to secure their homes against robbery. Many have been lulled into thinking... "It can't happen to me, not in my neighbourhood!" This approach makes the burglar's job much easier. If you still picture the burglar as a sinister thief operating at night, with a handkerchief over his face, you are wrong! Statistics indicate that the thief will most probably be one of the male youths in the neighbourhood, usually under 30 and most likely a

teenager. It will more than likely be in broad daylight. The typical burglar does not want to hurt you, just get into your home, steal what is available and valuable, and get out as quickly as possible, unobserved. The burglar likes unlocked doors; but will use an open garage door or second storey window. If necessary, your door or window will be forced open to gain access. Of course, a burglar prefers that you not be home, so he/she may first knock at your door. If no one answers, the burglar enters. If you answer, the person will probably ask for directions to a particular street so you will not become suspicious.

Some burglars will assume you are not at home and enter without checking. Should this occur, do not approach the burglar, they are as likely to be as frightened as you are. Instead, try to memorize a description of the person(s), and after they leave, call 9-1-1 immediately.

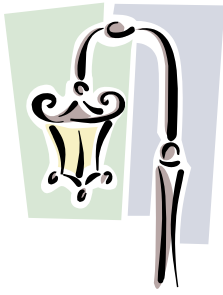


Outdoor Lighting

Security lighting assists with crime prevention. There are three functions:

- Detering crime: most people believe that where there is light, there may be someone watching.
- Detecting crime: in a well-lit area, an intruder may find it difficult to approach unseen. Lighting makes detection highly probable.
- Preventing concealment: lighting takes away shadows where someone could hide. Be aware of shadows thrown by shrubs near entryways and walkways. These are ideal hiding spots.

Safety lighting allows people to move about safely. For example, a light on the stairs leading to the house will prevent accidents by showing the edges of the steps.



Rather than using large spotlights that create heavy shadows for thieves to hide in, use the smaller garden lights. Pointing them towards the house from the edges of your garden will light up your whole garden, not into a big glaring space but into an extension of your home; inviting and

attractive for you to look at, but not for any would-be thieves.

My neighbour has a frog motion detector that sits under their bedroom window. The frog croaks when someone passes by. The frog will not protect them, but at least it will give them a warning!!



Service and Delivery People

- Do not hide keys around the outside of your home for the delivery person to use while you are not home. This invites trouble.
- Ask for identification from any delivery or service personnel who attends your home.
- If you do not feel comfortable with the delivery or service person who attends your home – you do not have to let them in, you can send them away.
- Be sure to utilize reputable and reliable businesses for service calls. Take the time to check on references regarding any company that you plan to have perform work or services for you.

Telephone Safety

- Do not provide personal information over the phone to people you do not know.
- Remember, no matter whom they say they are, you cannot visually identify a telephone caller. They could be anyone!
- If a caller refuses to identify themselves, **HANG UP!**
- If a caller asks what number they have called, ask them what number they dialled.



- Do not divulge to anyone that you are home alone.
- Teach your children proper phone etiquette and safe telephone practices.
- If you are receiving annoying or harassing telephone calls, document the date, time and nature of the calls and assemble a record of calls before contacting the Police. Never stay on the telephone and react to an annoying or harassing caller. Hang up immediately.
- If you receive life threatening calls, call the Police immediately.
- Never give out a credit card number over the telephone.
- Consider answering machines as useful tools for screening telephone calls.

Other things you should consider

- Take all precautions regarding proper storage of firearms, toxins, medicines and all flammable materials.
- Install fire, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and check annually.
- Display house address numbers on the front and back of the home. Use white numbers on a dark background or dark numbers on a light background.
- Use exterior motion lighting and interior light timers.
- Display your Block Watch sticker in a prominent place.
- Shrubs should be trimmed so they are no higher than 3 feet from the ground. Tree branches should be trimmed so they are no lower than 6 feet.
- If you return home and find that it has been broken into and you suspect that someone may still be inside, call 9-1-1 from your cell phone or from the neighbour's home. If you suspect a burglar is inside your home, do not go in.
- Report all suspicious activity to the Police.



A Block Watch Captain's Safety Tip

"People should buy a simple paper shredder to keep their personal information away from others. I've noticed that the people who empty our blue boxes into the recycling truck are in a VERY big hurry, some papers are left behind, other papers fly off the truck. When I was walking recently, I found some papers on the sidewalk half a block away that belonged to my neighbour!"



Submitted by Francis Road / Z5 I07-04 Block Watch
Captain Darlene Zilke

Important Telephone Numbers

Emergency:

9-1-1
For Police, Fire or Ambulance

Non-Emergency:

Police: 604-278-1212
Fire: 604-278-5131

City of Richmond:

604-276-4000

Public Works Requests / Graffiti Hotline:

604-244-1262

Better Business Bureau

Lower Mainland Division
604-682-2711
bbbmail@bbbvancouver.org
www.bbbvancouver.org

Contact the Better Business Bureau in order to check the status of companies and/or organizations you are considering dealing with.

BC Lifeline Association

1-800-543-3546
1-800-LIFELINE
www.bclifeline.com

Provides the peace of mind you and your loved ones deserve, enabling you to continue to live independently in your own home.

BC Nurseline

604-215-4700 Vancouver
1-866-215-4700 Toll Free
1-866-889-4700 Toll Free and hearing impaired

Access to registered Nurses specifically trained to provide confidential health information. Access to pharmacists to get answers for 'medication' related questions.

British Columbia Securities Commission

604-899-6500
Fax: 604-899-6506
1-800-899-6854 Toll Free (BC & Alberta)
604-899-6854 Inquiries or complaints
www.bcsc.bc.ca

The BCSC is able to provide information to you around the topic of financial investment. BCSC is able to give information on whether or not a financial advisor and/or investment company is in good standing.

Chimo Crisis Centre

604-279-7077
e-mail: chimo@orca.bc.ca

Services include:

- Telephone Crisis Lines
- Suicide Intervention Counselling: 604-279-7070
- Nova Transition House
- Women's Counselling and Outreach
- Children's Counselling

City of Richmond's Emergency Programs

604-233-3333
www.richmond.ca/emergency

Encourages people to prepare for emergencies and assist people during or after an emergency.

**EQUIFAX Consumer Relations Dept.**

1-800-465-7166

www.equifax.ca

Contact Equifax to obtain a copy of your personal credit report.

Phone Busters / Seniors Busters

1-888-495-8501

www.phonebusters.com

Provides information on fraud prevention. Frauds and scams may also be reported to this agency.

Residential Tenancy Officewww.pssg.gov.bc.ca/rto/

Provides legislation information for landlords and tenants.

RCMP / Victim Services

604-270-6229

This section of the RCMP helps individuals who have been a victim of crime or who have experienced traumatic events such as sudden deaths, suicide or car accidents.

Transunion Canada Consumer Relations Centre

1-866-525-0262

www.tuscores.ca/

Contact Transunion to obtain a personal, up-to-date credit report.

Alarm Tips

An alarm system can be an excellent preventive measure. It should be purchased from a specialized company that will provide professional installation.



Insist that the keypad is easily accessible from the exit points, and that the arming delay is set for a reasonable period.

Insist that the system have a simple method for testing that will not result in a false dispatch, and then perform a test monthly.

Insist that your system has a cancel signal that an authorized person can use to tell the monitoring company not to send the Police.

Insist on a service call as soon as possible after any unexplained alarms.

Request annual maintenance checks by the alarm company.

All alarm systems should feature an auxiliary power source for non-stop protection in case of a power failure.

Discuss with your alarm company about installing an outdoor flashing light to indicate when your alarm has been triggered. This will draw more attention to your home.

If you are considering having an alarm system installed, contact the Block Watch office to request a copy of "Alarm Facts" – a list of tips to consider before purchasing.



To listen to a recorded message listing the weekly residential break and enters, please call 604 207-4715.

