

CRIME PREVENTION

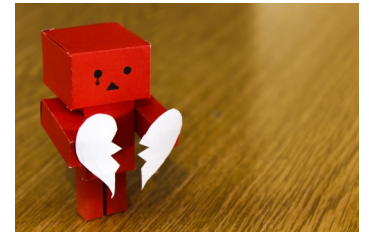
WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

NEWSLETTER

Joint investment or one-sided investment into love?

Scam artists preying on people looking for love online is nothing new, but the latest scams have switched to patterns of crypto scams.

Crypto-related romance scams are getting more sophisticated, be wary of the people you meet online. Fraudsters typically befriend and start flirting with the victim through dating apps. As the virtual romancing relationship develops, fraudster then suggest to move the conversation over to other encrypted instant messaging apps and start talking about joint investments so they can build a life together. They will convince the victim to download and install some fake crypto trading apps. It starts off with a small investment amount and withdrawable profit as bait. The fake app with made up balances tricks the victim into believing that they are both making contribution to the “investment”. After a while, the fraudster introduces other “highly profitable” trading events and financial products to the victim. This might go on for a while before any suspicion arises then problem starts when the victim wants to stop trading and withdraw their money. The fake app prompts the user that the account is now frozen and that they will need to pay twenty percent profit tax in order to unfreeze the account to make a withdrawal. The well sophisticated fraudulent app might even include an in-app chat function that allows the victim to talk to a customer service representative who is part of the scheme. If the victim refuses to pay the profit tax, they might be threatened with possible criminal tax evasion and be reported to the police. It does not end there... after the victim loses all their money, another victim impersonated by one of the scammers might contact them. They may claim that they have a way to recover their funds. This either ends in more monetary lost or personal information being stolen.



Avoid having a broken heart and breaking the bank — RECOGNIZE these red flags:

- ◇ The person whom you haven't met in person professes their love to you.
- ◇ They claim to live near you but is currently out of the country and unable to meet in person.
- ◇ The individual asks you to join them for a business venture or to invest in cryptocurrency.

Stay safe while venturing into the world of online dating — REJECT it!

- ◇ Never send money to anyone you have not met.
- ◇ Do not accept and transfer any money or goods on behalf of anyone that you have only just met online.
- ◇ Never send intimate photos or videos of yourself.
- ◇ Do not share your personal or financial information.

If you or someone you know is a victim of a CryptoRom scam — REPORT it!

- ◇ Stop all contact with the alleged scammer, report it to the police and file a complaint with the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.



Distracted Driving

Driving is an activity we do that takes a lot of our attention because we are focused on the road. When you are looking at your phone, resetting your GPS, looking at your smart watch, or changing songs you are not looking at the road. Other forms of distracted driving include doing your make up, eating or drinking while driving. Distracted driving is dangerous because you do not know who or what is in front of you when you look away.

Driving while distracted by an electronic device is dangerous and against the law. Distracted driving can have impact on lives and can be costly. A violation ticket fine is \$368. Every ticket for distracted driving adds four driver penalty points to your driving record as well. ICBC charges a driver penalty point premium of \$252 for four points. Thus, your total fine would be \$620 for distracted driving! It is better to put your phone away and focus on the road.

Last year, 1712 violation tickets and 57 warnings were given out to distracted drivers. In response to the high amount of distracted driving, our Community Engagement Team made an effort to educate people on the dangers of distracted driving through blitzes with our community partner ICBC, the traffic enforcement unit and RCMP volunteers. They issued 4 violation tickets and 20 warnings in 4 distracted driving blitzes in March. In total, the officers issued 276 distracted driving violation tickets and 50 warnings this year. Below are some tips to keep yourself safe from distracted driving.

- Put your phone and smart watch on silent
 - ◇ If your phone and smart watch does not ring, you won't get distracted by its vibration or sound. You can remove the temptation of checking your phone with a simple change in settings. Turn on the "do not disturb while driving" feature on your phone, it lets you and others know you are driving. If you do not have that feature, the default "do not disturb" setting is enough to mute your notifications.
- Park your vehicle somewhere safe and legal
 - ◇ If you must answer your phone, eat, drink, or do anything that requires you to look away from the road, pull over safely and park somewhere legally. You do not want to be a hazard on the road.
- Plan ahead
 - ◇ Adjust all your GPS, music, and connections before you drive so you do not have to adjust anything during your drive. This can also remove the time you spend looking at your screen on the dashboard.
 - ◇ If you have a passenger in your car, let them handle the phone so you can focus on driving.
- Keep things out of reach
 - ◇ Put your bags and items in the trunk or behind the seat on the ground. When our bags or items fall we do not need to worry about picking them up.



Distraction Theft

Distraction theft can come in many forms. Most of which involve someone pulling your attention away and stealing your possessions. Here are two examples of common distraction thefts.

- A person approaches you and tries to distract you with fast and loud talking. They may show you some jewelry, place it around your neck or wrists while removing your jewelry or watch and leave you with the fake pieces.
- A person may stop you and ask for directions. They might thank you by offering free jewelry. Once they get close to you they will swap the fake jewellery with your real jewellery while you are distracted.



The weather is warmer and many of us are spending time outside, thieves may prey on those who are unaware. One way you can protect yourself is to be mindful of your personal space. Keep some distance between you and the stranger. Stay at least 2 metres away from the stranger. Distance gives you time to observe and react to the stranger's action. Another way you can protect yourself is to recognize suspicious activity. Compare what you see to what you know about your current situation. Is it normal for someone to approach you and hand you jewelry right away? What are they trying to do? One thing to remember is that you can always say no and choose to walk away. If you witness or are a victim of a distraction theft. Please report it to the police immediately.

To start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the communities together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighborhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

Select a Captain/Co-Captain

- ◇ Each Captain/Co-Captain must submit an application and complete a Police Information Check

Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Recruit homes that are near to you. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area. We will provide you with recruitment packages.

Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Captain/Participant training - Register as many of your group as you can for a virtual training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at blockwatch@richmond.ca or call 604-207-4829.

BUSINESS LINK

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Construction Site Theft Prevention

Crime does not discriminate. Regardless of the type of business or industry you are in, there will still be items that attract thieves, including construction sites. Materials and tools are valuable and expensive which makes them targets for thieves. Common targets at construction sites are heavy machinery, lumber, appliances, vehicles, power tools, copper wires, and other metals. Inventory loss at construction sites are often consider collateral cost but it doesn't have to be that way. There are many ways in protecting large construction sites. Knowing what thieves are looking to steal and taking the necessary precautions to prevent it is a great place to start.

Tips to deter construction site crime:

Access control management— hire security guards to control access to site. Keep a list of authorized personnel and only allow those who are authorized to enter the site.

Property Management— secure the boundaries of your site. Have secured fencing placed around the entire perimeter of the site. Keep the site well-lit at night with either motion sensor or timer-activated lighting. Install live video monitoring this can help keep your site's perimeter secure and allow security guards to see exactly what is going on at the site at all times.

With expensive machinery, heavy equipment, pricey power tools and valuable building materials, it should come as no surprise that construction sites are often targeted by thieves. Proactive deterrence is the best way in preventing theft at your construction site.

The next best thing to do, besides stopping criminals from entering your jobsite, is to put roadblocks in place to slow them down. The longer you delay criminals, the higher chance for police to be notified and to stop the crime in progress.

- ⇒ Store away all tools and materials in secured shipping containers.
- ⇒ Turn off heavy equipment circuit breakers at the end of the day before leaving the site.
- ⇒ Park all heavy equipment in the same central location every evening, away from perimeter of the site.
- ⇒ Block off all drive in routes to your site with cement boulders to prevent unauthorized after hour access.

