



BLOCK WATCH®

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

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NORTH VANCOUVER RCMP WARN ABOUT SCAM ARTIST

The North Vancouver RCMP would like to warn local businesses about a scam involving alleged inspections of fire extinguishers.

The suspect in this matter walks into various businesses claiming to be a fire extinguisher inspector and, for a cash transaction, he offers to inspect the extinguishers. Once “inspected” he places a tag on the extinguishers claiming that their certification is up to date and leaves. This individual is not accredited through the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia to inspect fire extinguishers, as is required by law.

The suspect is generally described as a short, stocky Caucasian male, in his mid-40s, balding with short, curly, dark brown hair. He generally tries to pass his business off as Paul’s Fire Protection or Metro Fire Service, even though neither of these businesses are registered in the Province of BC.

Individuals operating a legitimate business will always carry their credentials. It is prudent to always request that identification be presented before agreeing to any service. The [Better Business Bureau](#) also has a function on their website which allows for interested parties to verify a business or charity.

Businesses are being asked to call the RCMP non-emergency line at 604-985-1311 if they are victimized by this person.

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

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AVALANCHE SAFETY

- 1) Watch for recent avalanches – don’t play on similar, unreleased slopes.
- 2) Watch for amount of new snow or wind loading on leeward slopes.
- 3) Beware of rain. If it is raining it will weaken the snow quickly but will stabilize when refrozen.
- 4) Listen for whumping noises; you may even feel it when you get a group of sleds together in one spot.
- 5) Watch for shooting cracks in the snow, this shows the snow is ripe for fracturing.
- 6) Does the snow have a hollow sound to it? This could indicate a buried weak layer.
- 7) Is the temperature warming quickly? This will weaken snow quickly.

Source: <http://www.bcsf.org/safety/avalanche-awareness-tips-that-could-save-a-life/>

BACKCOUNTRY EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT

- Well stocked first aid kit
 - Emergency blanket
 - Extra food and water (for 1 or 2 days)
 - Energy or candy bars
 - Flashlight (L.E.D is recommended)
 - Hand axe or saw
 - Knife
 - Nylon rope
 - Plastic whistle
 - Pocket mirror
 - Signal flares
 - Waterproof matches
 - Candle
 - Aluminum foil
 - Aspirin
- ...continued....

Survival Kit, Continued

- Tarp
- Snowshoes
- Compass or GPS receiver (know how to operate)
- Cell phone

Source: <http://www.bcsf.org/safety/always-be-prepared/>

WINDSHIELD FRAUD – NORTH VANCOUVER

If you're stopped by a man who claims you have damaged the windshield on his already beaten-up blue minivan, he's likely trying to scam you out of your money.

In fact, if it weren't for an alert driver who recognized that something wasn't right, police might still not know about the crime which has been going on since at least February 11th, 2010.

Now, North Vancouver RCMP have linked at least three incidents where a man calling himself "Rick McKay" has flagged down motorists. Typically, the suspect claims that his windshield has been damaged because something fell off the back of the victim's car. He then goes on to say he only wants the ICBC deductible of 300 dollars to cover his costs, rather than make an official claim, and asks for the cash up front.

Naturally, "Rick McKay" is an alias and the claim is bogus. So far, all three incidents have happened on Dollarton Highway near Riverside Drive. The suspect may be targeting people who are on their way to the North Shore Transfer Station with trailers full of trash. On at least one occasion, the scam has been successful.

This series of scams is more proof that if you try to save money in the underground economy you could get burned. The fraud was ultimately revealed when a would-be victim insisted that the suspect make a claim through ICBC. The suspect refused and immediately left the area, but the victim followed him long enough to see him attempt the same scam on another victim.

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

APARTMENT BUILDING SECURITY

Lobby Security

- refer unknown or suspicious people trying to get into the building to the manager, superintendent or security
- do not allow strangers to enter the building as you are leaving or entering
- cooperate with all other tenants in keeping the main outer doors locked at all times
- do not buzz anyone into the building that you were not expecting or do not know
- use only your first initial (not your full first name) on the lobby directory, doorbell, mailbox and phone directory
- do not leave notes on your apartment door or on the lobby directory
- change locks if keys are lost or if you move
- if you see a stranger carrying items out of a neighbour's apartment, call 911
- If you have recently purchased a television, stereo or other household item, do not throw the empty boxes in the alley garbage.
- Window air conditioning units should be bolted to the wall to prevent them from being easily removed from the outside.
- Keep emergency numbers near your phone for quick access.
- Be cautious about providing any information regarding yourself or your neighbours over the phone or in person.

Elevator Safety

- look to see who's in the elevator before entering
- if there is someone in the elevator that makes you uncomfortable, wait for the next one
- when you are in the elevator, stand beside the control panel
- if a suspicious person enters the elevator, exit before the doors close

source: <http://vancouver.ca/police/crime-prevention/>