



BLOCK WATCH ®

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

www.blockwatch.com

NATIONAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GROUPS

The RCMP's campaign consists of a poster and an interactive website which informs the public of how their actions can inadvertently help finance organized criminal groups as well as the consequences, inherent hazards and destructive impacts these groups have on their communities.

It also provides examples of how the RCMP's Drug and Organized Crime Awareness Service (DOCAS) are dealing with these criminal activities and their commitment to providing awareness and prevention programs.

This plan is also one of several ways the RCMP is fulfilling its responsibilities as outlined in the National Anti-Drug Strategy.

Source: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/news-nouvelles/2011/11-25-oc-co-eng.htm>

OPERATION RED NOSE

Operation Red Nose is a unique program dedicated to the fight against impaired driving. Essentially, it is a volunteer driving service provided during the Christmas Holiday Season to all motorists who have been drinking or who do not feel fit to drive their own vehicle. It is an original way of getting a safe ride in one's own vehicle without getting behind the wheel and... it's free.

For more information check out:

<http://www.rednose.bc.ca/>

source: <http://www.rednose.bc.ca/>

Block Watch News December 2011, January & February 2012

SAFETY TIPS FOR INDOOR & OUTDOOR LIGHTS

- Use Canadian Standards Association (CSA)-approved lights, cords, plugs and sockets that are marked for outdoor use or wet locations.
- Make sure outdoor circuits are equipped with an approved, weather-proof ground fault circuit interrupter.
- Keep electrical connections off the ground. Use eave clips or insulated staples, rather than nails and tacks, to hold light strings in place.
- Keep your tree at least three feet away from heat vents, baseboards and fireplaces.
- Use holiday LED strings inside, reducing the risk of fire.
- Make sure your artificial tree is not flammable.
- Keep metallic trees away from electrical cords or plugs.

Source: http://www.bchydro.com/safety/be_safe_at_home/safety_tips_for_holiday_lights.html

WHAT B.C. DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WINTER TIRES AND INSURANCE

Although winter tires are not mandatory in B.C., ICBC recommends their use in winter conditions particularly if you live in an area where you would normally expect a lot of snow. In snowy conditions, driving without proper winter tires may not be the wisest or safest decision, but it does not affect a customer's insurance coverage or eligibility to make a claim.

However, if you get in a crash where winter tires could have helped it may be a deciding factor in determining whether or how much you are at-

fault. Keep in mind that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure can also designate that winter tires are required on certain roads and highways. This typically happens during the fall and winter months in northern B.C. and the Southern Interior. If you are driving on these roads without winter tires, police can ticket you and make you turn back.

Source: <http://icbc.com/news/2011nov10-02>

DON'T BE A VICTIM OF AUTO CRIME THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The Prince George RCMP would like to remind the driving public, in particular, the shopping public, that car thieves are out looking for gifts this holidays season too. Don't let them ruin your holiday experience this year. Here are a few things you can do to prevent your vehicle from being stolen:

- Invest in at least one anti-theft device, particularly a passive immobilizer. Anti-theft devices can deter thieves in three ways:

1) Physically – no thief wants to waste precious time exerting a lot of physical effort. They are lazy;

2) Visually – just the site of an anti-theft device inside a car will turn a thief away from your car;

3) Audibly – thieves never want to draw attention to themselves.

- Take your possessions with you or leave them at home. Leave nothing in your vehicle. If you have to keep possessions in your trunk, put them in the truck before you travel to your destination. Thieves are watching. Putting items in your trunk after you get to your shopping destination, may draw the attention of a thief;
- Don't leave a spare key in your vehicle;
- Park in well-lit areas. Avoid parking behind fences or hedges.

Source: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=21997>

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FOR PETS

- Many popular holiday plants are poisonous to animals including mistletoe, holly, ornamental pepper and Christmas rose. Remember to keep these plants out of reach of pets - especially birds.
- **Avoid Tinsel:** If you have a Christmas tree and pets, you have a recipe for trouble. First, make sure the tree is well secured. Try to place decorations above paw height and use string to hang the bulbs instead of hooks, which are easily dislodged. If possible, use nonbreakable ornaments. Avoid using tinsel or angel hair.
- **Antifreeze:** Many animals like the taste of antifreeze and will readily consume it when given the opportunity. However, antifreeze, even in the smallest amounts, can have a very harmful and often fatal effect on your pet.
- **Salt:** The salt used to melt snow irritate the pads of pet's feet. Wipe off your pet's feet before they lick their paws.
- Cords for lights should be made inaccessible to pets - especially from chewing puppies and exploring kittens. Keep in mind that the chemicals added to the water reservoir of your Christmas tree to keep your tree living longer won't do the same for your pet. The chemicals are toxic to animals, so keep the reservoir covered.

Source: <http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/pet-care/health-safety/holiday-safety.html>