



**BLOCK WATCH**®

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

[www.blockwatch.com](http://www.blockwatch.com)

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK - MAY 2 – 8**

The main objective is to increase awareness about individual and family emergency preparedness. A family emergency plan will help you and your family know what to do in case of an emergency.

Every Canadian household needs an emergency plan. It will take you about 20 minutes to complete your personalized plan online. You can then print it out. Before starting your home emergency plan, you will need to think about:

- Safe exits from home and neighbourhood
- Meeting places to reunite with family or roommates
- Designated person to pick up children should you be unavailable
- Contact persons close-by and out-of-town
- Health information
- Place for your pet to stay
- Risks in your region
- Location of your fire extinguisher, water valve, electrical box, gas valve and floor drain

Source: [www.getprepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca)

## **PLAYGROUND SAFETY**

1. Supervise your child closely and ensure they know how to use equipment safely.
2. Teach them playground safety rules: Wait their turn; go down the slide feet first; hold on to railings and sit down on swings and slides.

# **Block Watch News** May 2010

3. Remember to keep clear of moving swings and the bottom of slides.
4. Before using the playground, remove helmets, scarves and drawstrings. Avoid playing with skipping ropes around the equipment.
5. Check the playground. It should have a deep, soft surface as well as handrails and barriers to prevent falls. Watch out for sharp objects or spaces where your child's head could get stuck.

Source: <http://www.safekidscanada.ca>

## **WILDFIRE PREVENTION**

There are approximately [2,000 wildfires](#) in British Columbia each year. Of those, roughly half are [person-caused](#), while the other half are [lightning-caused](#).

Person-caused wildfires are those related to abandoned campfires, smoking, logging, railroads, brush or range burns, construction, recreationalists and arson. All person-caused wildfires are preventable. You can [help prevent wildfires](#).

In an attempt to reduce the number of person-caused fires, the B.C. Forest Service has an extensive fire prevention program which targets the general public, the forest industry, communities, property owners and other stakeholders. Our program includes:

### **Fire Awareness**

- radio advertisements
- newspaper advertisements
- highway signs
- Smokey Bear program
- pamphlets/brochures
- posters
- [1-888-3-FOREST](#) fire information line

**Continued...**

## **WILDFIRE PREVENTION CONTINUED...**

### **Community Involvement**

- local fire department liaison and co-operative agreements
- "FireSmart" community planning
- home owner precautions
- school presentations
- fire wardens and fire prevention officers (644)
- working with [other agencies](#) to develop fire-smart provincial, regional and local government guidelines, by-laws and legislation

For more information, [contact your local Fire Centre](#) and ask to speak to the Fire Centre's Prevention Specialist.

Source: <http://bcwildfire.ca/Prevention/>

## **COMBAT AUTO THEFT (CAT) PROGRAM COMES TO AN END**

With auto-theft at an all-time low, BCAA, ICBC and local police have decided to retire the Combat Auto Theft (CAT) program.

The CAT program began in 1993 and authorized police to stop and check any vehicle displaying a CAT decal between 1 and 5 a.m., In addition, the decal offered a visual clue to would-be thieves that stealing a CAT-decaled car would increase their risk of being caught.

Today's technologies such as engine immobilizers and police surveillance tools and new programs such as Bait-Car, have ultimately made the CAT program "redundant".

### **Don't get complacent**

Although auto theft is down, vehicle owners still need to be vigilant in protecting themselves. Today's electronic engine immobilizers offer excellent protection, and can get you a discount on your insurance, too! New car owners are automatically protected by an engine immobilizer (all new cars sold in Canada since September 2007

are required by law to be equipped with one). Owners of pre-2007 vehicles not already protected by an immobilizer might want to look at purchasing one and having it installed by a qualified installer.

### **Don't remove your sticker**

ICBC research shows that car thieves are less likely to steal a CAT-decaled vehicle as they think it could mean the vehicle is alarmed or under surveillance. So, leave your sticker in place for a little extra peace of mind.

Source: <http://www.bcaa.com/wps/portal/BCAA>

## **CELEBRATING SAFE COMMUNITIES GRANT 2010**

Each year the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General, Crime Prevention and Victim Services Division, in partnership with the Provincial Safe Communities Working Group, encourage **all** community members **to participate** in a province-wide celebration to celebrate their Safe Community.

Your event must take place between **May 21, 2010 and Sep. 20, 2010**, and **must include a crime prevention/reduction element**. Remember to involve your Police department, local businesses, community organizations, neighbours, or service agencies as **partners** in planning and hosting your event.

The Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General has made available funding for **grants of \$50** in support of the Safe Community Day celebration. A Grant application form and an Evaluation form are located below. Please note the first application review for approval will take place **April 12, 2010**, followed by **May 14, 2010**. (**May 14th will be the last day we are accepting applications**).

To receive your Grant payment, please submit your Evaluation form promptly after your event. Please remember, no cheques will be mailed until the Evaluation form has been received by the Society. If for any reason you cannot commit to the dates indicated Block Watch must be notified in advance for approval. For more information, click [here](#)

Source: <http://www.blockwatch.com>