



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



REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOV. 11

SLOW DOWN ON ICY ROADS

ICBC, the province and police are reminding drivers to slow down and adapt their driving speed according to fall and winter road conditions.

In North Central B.C., the number of casualty crashes due to driving too fast for conditions doubles in December compared to October.

"We can all help keep roads safer by making smart driving decisions," said ICBC Road Safety Director Nicolas Jimenez. "Smart driving means: planning more time for travelling on icy roads and slowing down so you can see more of the road."

"Seasonal weather conditions in the North Central region of B.C., such as rain, snow and ice, have a considerable effect on your ability to stop, negotiate curves and avoid objects, such as wild animals," said RCMP North District Traffic Services Inspector Eric Brewer. "If you are caught driving too fast for conditions, you face a \$167 fine, which is insignificant compared to the other consequences of driving too fast."

Source: <http://icbc.com/news/10-oct15-03>

Block Watch

News November 2010

OPERATION ROAD WORKS — BURNABY

Members from Burnaby Traffic Services went under cover this weekend to find out how motorists are really driving in construction zones.

Traffic is one of Burnaby RCMP's policing priorities. Part of Burnaby Traffic Services mandate is to increase enforcement operations which target speeding and aggressive driving. Operation "Road Works" focuses on speeding and aggressive driving in construction zones. Members from Burnaby Traffic Unit, disguised as construction workers, monitored traffic traveling through various construction zones.

Fines for speeding in a construction zone are :
Section 140 MVA (speed less than 21km limit) \$196.00

Section 140MVA (21km to 40 km over speed limit) \$253.00

The fines for speeds over 40km increase substantially and violators are subject to a vehicle impound.

Source: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=16829>

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES — NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY MONTH

Many people stick to themselves, but creating bonds with your neighbours can be very beneficial if there's ever a problem. Neighbours can be great friends, and be there when you need them most.

Organizing a Block Party, for example, is a great and fun way to get to know your neighbours, and get the whole community involved. It will allow you to meet new neighbours, as well as re-establish old friendships.

Block Watch is a program to help neighbours watch out for neighbours. The program thrives on cooperation. By simply getting to know the neighbours around you, you'll be well positioned to recognize someone or something that's suspicious. It aims to get citizens involved in discouraging and preventing crime at the local level. The ultimate success of Block Watch depends largely on a commitment to cooperate between area residents and the police – and more importantly, between residents themselves.

Source: <http://safety-council.org/campaigns/national-crime-prevention-and-community-safety-month-2010/>

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE FOR WINTER

One of the first things motorists need to do is look critically at their tires. Even if the area you live in doesn't see much snow, temperature of seven degrees or lower affect tire performance. Winter tires are designed to function better in lower temperatures and can shorten stopping distance by approximately 25 per cent over all season tires.

To prevent break downs make sure your vehicle is recently serviced. Check all lights, belts, hoses and battery levels and top up the coolant, windshield washer fluids and fuel regularly.

For long or remote trips, motorists should carry tire chains and a winter driving survival kit that includes a cell phone, jumper cables, extra clothing, food, flashlights, candles and an assortment of tools and supplies.

Drivers of commercial vehicles over 27,000 kg and operating outside the Lower Mainland or

Vancouver Island are required to carry tire chains now through to April 30.

Source: http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2010TRAN0081-001247.htm

SPOT LIGHT ON BLOCK WATCH IN NORTH COWICHAN/DUNCAN

Block Watch is one program in an arsenal of resources to reduce crime and victimization provided by the Cowichan Community Policing Advisory Society and the RCMP. "Crime is not a police problem - it's a community problem" - says Carol-Ann Rolls, Island Representative to the Block Watch Society of BC. At the local Block Watch Captains meeting held this week, it was evident that the program has neighbourhood support from many neighbourhoods throughout the valley. "We have 108 captains/Co-Captains representing 86 neighbourhoods and it's growing with addition of new blocks being set up in Glenora and Crofton recently".

At the meeting, participants spoke to the benefits of the program, including getting connected with neighbours, helping to resolve those "in your face" safety issues that affect your day to day living, sharing of crime prevention information to make you less vulnerable to crime, building a sense of community, improved communication with the RCMP and more. "The RCMP appreciates those extra eyes and ears in the community and encourages Block Watch participants to call the police to make reports", says Cst Markus Lueder, Liaison to the local Block Watch program.

When neighbours come together and participate in Block Watch they are sending a clear message that they will not tolerate suspicious activity, persons or vehicles in their block and they will make reports to the police.

Source: <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=50&languageId=1&contentId=17126>