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www.blockwatch.com

DRUNK DRIVING DEATHS DOWN 46% IN BC

The B.C. government says a tough drunk driving law brought in two years ago has reduced the number of impaired driving deaths in the province by 46 per cent.

It says since the law took effect in September 2010, the number of alcohol-related traffic deaths has fallen to an average of 62 a year from about 114 in each of the previous five years.

The government says that means an estimated 104 lives have been saved.

Source:<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/11/21/bc-impaired-driving-deaths-down.html>

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 is by donation which goes to a worthwhile local charity.

For more information check out:

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

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

Block Watch News

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ANTI-BULLYING WEBSITE UNVEILED BY BC GOV'T

The tool is part of a new Erase Bullying website and allows students in any one of the province's public schools to fill out a form and document cases of bullying, whether they were victims themselves or were a witness.

They can choose whether to submit the information anonymously or provide their name. Their report is then sent to a local safe schools co-ordinator, who decides whether to share the information with school administrators or, in more serious cases, the police. The information will also be used to identify trends and problem schools.

The province's Erase Bullying program includes the creation of safe school co-ordinators in every school district, stronger codes of conduct for schools and a new five-year training program.

That training program has already started and will eventually see 15,000 educators learn about creating inclusive schools and how to conduct thorough threat assessments in their buildings

Source:<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/11/14/b-c-education-officials-deny-amanda-todds-mothers-request-to-attend-anti-bullying-conference/>

NEW GRANT FOR BC ANTI-BULLYING GROUPS

Anti-bullying groups are now eligible for a portion of the money that's been seized from criminals.

The B.C. government announced the expanded criteria for grants from civil forfeiture proceeds after Premier **Christy Clark**'s Erase Bullying forum in Vancouver on Tuesday. The total amount available is \$1 million and the deadline is Dec. 12.

Grants are also available for projects that prevent youth crime, combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation, prevent family violence and violence against women and community crime prevention.

Get information [here](#)

Source:<http://blogs.vancouver.sun.com/2012/11/15/new-grant-for-b-c-anti-bullying-groups/>

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

- Make sure your artificial tree is labelled as fire-retardant.
- Use lights which are in good condition and tested and labelled by ULC or CSA. Never use indoor lights outside.
- Avoid overloading electrical circuits or extension cords.
- Always unplug Christmas tree and other indoor decorating lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Keep candles well away from trees, decorations and other combustibles, and never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Place your tree at least one metre (three feet) from fireplaces or other heat sources. Never place your tree where it may block access to an exit.

- Safely dispose of cut trees as soon as possible after Christmas. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage, or placed against the house.

Source:<http://www.richmond.ca/safety/fire/rescue/prevention/home/holidays.htm>

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY

Holiday shopping can be hectic enough without losing valuable possessions. The following crime prevention tips will help keep you a little safer this holiday season while shopping.

Park in well-lit, visible areas. Dark, secluded areas provide space and atmosphere for auto crime and theft from auto. Remember it only takes seconds to break into a vehicle.

Remove detachable radios, cassettes and CD players. Theft from auto is a large problem. We need to take every opportunity to secure not only our vehicles, but also the accessories that make our vehicles more comfortable.

Remove or hide in your trunk all personal possessions before you reach your destination. Ensure that when you place your shopping bags into the trunk, you move your vehicle to a different parking spot before going back into the mall. If anyone is watching, they will assume that you are leaving the mall. Secure the windows, sunroof and doors. Keep the garage door opener out of sight as it can be used to gain entry to your garage and home. Do not leave change on the dash, in the console or in the ashtray.

Source:http://www.richmond.ca/safety/police/news/newsletter/1213_holidaysafetytips.htm