



BLOCK WATCH ®

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www.blockwatch.com



Don't Forget

– Day light Savings Time

Set your clocks **ahead one hour** at 2:00 AM, Sunday March 8, 2014

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK - MAY 3 – 9, 2015

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](#)

Block Watch News

March, April and May 2015

TAX PREPARATION SAFETY TIPS

Check on qualifications. Ask about their training, experience and knowledge of current tax law, and whether they are members of a professional organization with continuing education requirements and a code of ethics.

Learn about their service terms in advance. Find out whether they guarantee the accuracy of their work and amend the return if there's a mistake. And find out if they can be reached year round—if there is a mistake or are required to undergo an audit, you want to make sure you can reach them after the tax season is complete.

Ask for references. Get referrals from satisfied clients.

Check with BBB.

Visit www.bbb.org/mbc/ to determine if the tax preparer has a reputation for reliability and trustworthiness.

Request a quote. Ask for an estimate of the preparation fee before authorizing the work.

Be on the watch for tax-related scams

Phishing Scams. Never open or download attachments included with messages claiming to be from the Canada Revenue Agency. Typically, these messages advise the recipient that they have qualified for a tax refund and need to click on a link to enter their information. The link takes the person to a bogus website and requires the visitor to enter personal identification. CRA will not contact you via email.

Identity Theft. If you're doing your taxes on your own online, don't use a public wireless connection. Even using the latest wireless security encryption standards such as WPA2 can be risky, so use a wired connection when dealing with sensitive financial and personal information.

[Source](#)

SPRING BREAK: SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY TIPS

Think first before you post. Restrict what information you or your family place on social media sites. Keep specific details of your vacation off your site until you return. Ask the question: Would you want this information seen by everyone in your friends or followers' list, forever? What could someone do with the information you are providing?

Review the privacy settings of your social media sites. Restrict the access to information you provide, including status updates, to only those you trust. Consider defriending people you do not know well or at all.

Put a vacation stop on your mail and newspaper. Contact your newspaper delivery and mail services and ask them to hold or cancel delivery while you are away. Mail or newspapers stockpiling at your front door tells people your home is empty.

Safety proof your home. Check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors every month. Keep hedges and bushes around your home trimmed, so burglars don't have places to hide. Lock your doors, even if you are away for a short amount of time.

Contact your credit card company to tell them where you are going and when you will return. Credit card companies will often monitor your purchases; if they see unusual transactions, they may put a hold on your account, which might leave you trying to prove your identity overseas so you can pay your hotel room.

[Source](#)

10TH ANNUAL VICTIMS OF CRIME AWARENESS WEEK WILL TAKE PLACE - APRIL 19-25, 2015

For more information on event planning, funding, and resources, please click [here](#)

[Source](#)

BBB TOP SCAMS OF 2014: CONSUMER TIPS FOR 2015

1. Credit/Loan Scams

Legitimate financial lenders will not require you to pay a fee or wire money for paperwork or insurance prior to getting a loan. Typically the cost of such fees is included in the total loan amount and is not an additional sum that you must pay up front in order to secure the loan.

2. Door-to-Door Handyman Scams

Be aware that you get what you pay for. Legitimate, reputable contractors rarely sell their products or services door-to-door. Trustworthy contractors will provide you with a written estimate that should be valid for a reasonable and specific amount of time.

3. Masquerades

Never open an email, click on any links, or download any files unless you are certain you understand the reason you are receiving the email. If at any time you think you might have become the victim of a phishing or other computer, email or Internet scam have your computer scanned by a trusted computer repair professional to see if any malware is present.

4. Unauthorized Billing Scams

Reduce your risk of credit card fraud by always reporting lost credit cards and incorrect charges on your bill to your financial institution. Carefully monitor your statements and compare purchases with printed receipts. If your credit card has been compromised have it replaced immediately.

5. Computer Virus Telemarketing Scam

Reduce your risk of credit card fraud by always reporting lost credit cards and incorrect charges on your bill to your financial institution. Carefully monitor your statements and compare purchases with printed receipts. If your credit card has been compromised have it replaced immediately.

[Source](#)