



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

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

### **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, click [here](#)

[Source](#)

### **Know Before You Go**

A few moments planning ahead now could save you problems when you are behind the wheel. Reduce your stress by planning your route with up to date information.

- [DriveBC](#) for latest highway conditions, highway cams and delay information.
- [B.C. Weather Warnings](#) (from EnvironmentCanada)
- Call toll-free **1-800-550-4997** for BC road information 24 hours-a-day. –

[Source](#)

### **Sending Holiday Mail Safely...**

- Do not send cash in the mail
- Communicate with your recipient to ensure they are expecting a parcel
- When sending a gift or gift card, consider using registered mail or a courier service so parcels can be tracked and insured

[Source](#)

## **Block Watch News** December 2016, January & February 2017

### **12 Online Shopping Safety tips**

1. The best way to get your attention is with a “stunning” price, so be wary of things that are too good to be true.
2. The best scams don’t look like scams.
3. Usually the scammers don’t get reviews.
4. Safe payment systems take hard work, and a new website might not have put in the effort.
5. Look for a “real” owner.
6. Watch out for making purchases over public or open WiFi.
7. SSL protects your connection, but doesn’t protect you from who you connect to.
8. Review your online account settings.
9. Keep personal information personal.
10. Develop good password habits; change them often and use unique ones that are hard to guess.
11. Ensure the website address makes sense.
12. Consider a low-limit credit card.

[Source](#)

### **Emergency Car Kit for Winter**

- Food that won't spoil, such as energy bars
- Water—plastic bottles that won't break if the water freezes (replace them every six months)
- Blanket
- Extra clothing and shoes or boots
- First aid kit with seatbelt cutter
- Small shovel, scraper and snowbrush
- Candle in a deep can and matches
- Wind-up flashlight
- Whistle—in case you need to attract attention
- Roadmaps
- Copy of your emergency plan

[Source](#)

## Winter Backcountry Survival Tips

- Ensure everyone going into mountainous terrain in winter has essential avalanche safety gear - transceiver, probe and shovel - and knows how to use it.
- Ensure everyone has at least basic training in recognizing avalanche terrain and moving safely in that environment.
- Ensure everyone travelling in the backcountry checks weather and avalanche bulletins before heading out. Then choose appropriate terrain for the conditions of the day.
- "Know Before You Go."
- Does your group have the skills, knowledge and training to travel in avalanche terrain?
- Can you self-rescue? Do you have a plan?
- Do you know the emergency number?
- Have you left an itinerary with someone? Do you have any other route options?
- Again, have you the correct equipment, and have you checked the avalanche and weather forecasts?

[Source](#)

## Winter Safety Driving Tips

1. Check the current road conditions and weather forecast. Listen to the radio, watch TV and visit DriveBC.ca. Again, ask yourself – is it safe to go?
2. Plan your route ahead of time. Avoid any roads that may become dangerous during bad weather. Respect road closure signs and barriers and do not attempt to drive on these routes until they are re-opened.
3. Leave lots of time so you're not rushing. Try to travel during daylight and consider delaying your trip if the weather is bad. Let someone know your route and planned arrival time.
4. Learn winter road skills. Through training and practice, learn how to brake safely, how to get out of a skid, and how your car handles in winter weather.

[Source](#)

## Christmas Tree Safety

- If your Christmas tree is visible from the outside, consider not placing gifts under the tree until the last minute.
- If you have pets, they may be attracted to ribbons and parcels and they could pose a choking hazard.
- Once the presents have been unwrapped, consider taking boxes for things such as computers, electronics and televisions straight to recycling yourself - no need to alert a thief what new toys Santa brought you by leaving the boxes outside your home.

[Source](#)

## Going out of town...safety tips

- Suspend newspaper delivery and arrange for someone to pick up your mail or contact your mail service to hold your mail until your return. Ensure all doors and windows are locked.
- Use timers to turn lights, and possibly the TV or radio, on/off during the day/night.
- Ask a neighbour to shovel snow around your driveway and sidewalks.
- Leave a generic message on your answering machine – never say that you are away, including on any social media you may subscribe to.
- Leave blinds or curtain in normal position – don't close them completely. Close and lock the garage door.

[Source](#)

