



**BLOCK WATCH**®

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

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

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY

1. Children should be accompanied by an adult.
2. Children should wear clothing that can easily be seen at night. Retro- reflective materials are best.
3. Children should trick or treat in one well-known area and not wander into unknown neighbourhoods.
4. All candy should be inspected by an adult to make sure that no one has tampered with it. If it looks suspicious, the police should be contacted.
5. Children should avoid stray animals.
6. Children should wear masks that do not interfere with vision. Better yet, they can avoid masks by wearing makeup.
7. Children should watch for moving vehicles when crossing streets.
8. Costumes should be short enough that the child will not trip.
9. Trick or treaters should dress appropriately for the weather and carry a flashlight.
10. For extra safety, organize a Halloween party for children in your neighbourhood.

Source: <https://canadasafetycouncil.org/child-safety/ten-halloween-safety-tips>

**BCCPA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Symposium takes place on October 31-November 2, 2013, “Prevention: Key to a Safer Future” for more information, please go to [bccpa.org](http://bccpa.org)**



**REMEMBRANCE DAY - NOV. 11**

## Block Watch News

**September, October & November 2013**

### BACK TO SCHOOL SPEED LIMITS

Starting September 3<sup>rd</sup>, school zone limits go back into effect, **30km/h from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.**

### CHOOSING A HOME CONTRACTOR SAFELY

**Be picky and have lots of options.** Seek at least three bids from prospective contractors based on the same specifications, materials and labour needed to complete the project. Homeowners should discuss bids in detail with each contractor and ask questions about variations in pricing.

**Make sure they are insured.** Consumers should ask whether the company is insured with WorkSafe BC against claims covering workers' compensation, property damage and personal liability in case of accidents. Consumers should obtain the name of the insurance carrier and call to verify coverage.

**Get everything in writing.** Read and understand the contract before signing. Get all verbal promises in writing. Include start and completion dates in the contract.

**Know where your responsibilities lie.** The homeowner is responsible for ensuring all contracted work conforms to zoning bylaws and ensuring prompt payment according to the requirements of the law. The contractor is responsible for identifying necessary permits and ensuring all legal requirements are satisfied; removal of construction debris when the job is finished; warranties on all contractor-supplied work and materials for a period of at least one year.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2012/09/17/bc-contractor-list.html>

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## HOW TO KEEP YOUR INFO SAFE FROM THEFT

- View any e-mails or other electronic messages with requests for personal identification, financial information, user names or passwords as suspicious. If you feel it's truly necessary to provide such information, go to your bank or credit card company's site directly. Never follow a link embedded in an e-mail.
- Always stay away from unsecured computers in public areas. If you log on to a public wireless network, don't conduct any secure transactions and be sure to log off the network when you're done.
- When it comes to those suspicious e-mails, a good way to identify those that aren't legit is to watch for poor grammar. Many of these scams originate in countries outside North America where English is a second language and oftentimes that's easily detected in the awkward language or phrasing.
- If you're truly not sure whether the e-mail is legitimate, get in touch with the person it claims to be from by phoning, e-mailing at a secondary address or going through a social networking site. That should be enough to get to the bottom of the scam.

Source: <http://www.bcliving.ca/travel/protect-yourself-from-identity-theft>

## LATEST CREDIT CARD SCAM

This is a heads up for everyone regarding the latest in credit card fraud, the Card Info Scam. This one is pretty slick because they provide you with all of the information except the one piece they want from you, the security number on the back of your card. By understanding how this credit card scam works you will be better prepared to protect yourself.

For more information, please click [here](#)

Source: <http://bc.cb.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=154&language>

## SHREDDING SAFETY

A paper shredder offers an easy way to destroy a document, and helps reduce concerns about privacy.

### Hazards/Precautions:

- Keep away from children and pets
- Always set to "Off" or unplug when not in use
- Keep foreign objects – gloves, jewelry, clothes, hair, ties etc. – away from shredder opening
- Never use aerosol, petroleum-based or other flammable products on or near shredder
- Will shred: paper, credit cards.

Source: <http://www.bcmsa.ca/resources/safe-work-procedures/>

## CRIME PREVENTION WEEK IS NOVEMBER 1-7, 2013

### CHOOSING AN ALARM SYSTEM

There are numerous alarm companies with various features from which to choose, but when you are looking for an alarm company you should consider the following:

- ask for recommendations from friends that have alarm systems or from your insurance agent
- how long has the company been in business?
- how many service facilities do they have?
- do they possess adequate liability insurance?
- are their employees bonded?
- obtain detailed quotes and system information from at least three alarm companies prior to making your decision
- you can also check with the [Canadian Alarm and Security Association](#), or the [Better Business Bureau](#)

Source: <http://vancouver.ca/police/crime-prevention/for-homes-rental-properties/home-security.html#Alarms>