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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 9, 2014
This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK - MAY 4 – 10, 2014

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:
<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/ep-wk/index-eng.aspx>

Block Watch News **March, April and May 2014**

TOP BBB SCAMS OF 2013

TOP FINANCIAL SCAM: AFFINITY FRAUD

When a scam artist targets a group of people who know each other, it is called an affinity fraud. The investment schemes they promote may change or vary over time, but the methods they use to target groups are often the same. To be successful, scam artists need to earn the trust of an influential person in a group, family, or workplace. Once they establish this bond (and this can take time), they use this connection to get their hands on the money of other people in the group. In some cases, they may even pay the influencer to help them out, never telling the person that the investment is really a scam.

Warning signs include: A new group member starts talking about wealth-building investments. The person pitching the investment uses your ethnicity, religion, occupation, or anything else they claim to have in common with you to gain your trust. Request to keep quiet about the investment because it is exclusive or only available to 'those in the know.'
An investment that seems too closely tied to a particular religious or group belief.

TOP SALES SCAM: CURBERS

Curbers, or unlicensed used-car "traffickers," often acquire junk cars and then sell them from parking lots or curbsides. They advertise through local newspapers and online ads. Later, the used car you bought privately may turn out to have a liens against it, the VIN (vehicle identification number) number switched, or the odometer rolled back. In some cases, the car turns out to be stolen.

Spot a curber when they have the same phone number listed for many cars and asks, "Which car?" when you call. The price seems too good to be true. The person is selling for a friend or

has a sad story, and tries to rush you into buying. A curber will not meet at their home and insists on cash. Also, look to see if the name or location on the vehicle documents does not match the curber's ID. Be wary of any person who wants you to lie on the transfer form.

Source: <http://mbc.bbb.org/article/top-ten-scams-2013-%E2%80%93-just-in-case-a-scam-is-around-the-corner-39600>

BACKCOUNTRY EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT

It is so important to be outfitted with the right gear – to protect you from injury and cold. It is important to wear clothing that will keep you warm and dry.

What would you need in order to survive a night in the backcountry? Food, water, shelter, protection from the cold, just to name a few. Assembling an emergency kit can help you be prepared with these items:

- Well stocked first aid kit
- Emergency blanket
- Extra food and water (for 1 or 2 days)
- Energy or candy bars
- Flashlight (L.E.D is recommended)
- Hand axe or saw
- Knife
- Nylon rope
- Plastic whistle
- Pocket mirror
- Signal flares
- Waterproof matches
- Candle
- Aluminum foil
- Aspirin
- Tarp
- Snowshoes
- Compass or GPS receiver (know how to operate)
- Cell phone

Source: <http://www.bcsf.org/safety/always-be-prepared/>

MARCH – FRAUD PREVENTION MONTH

Remember these golden rules to help you beat the scammers.

- Always get independent advice if an offer involves money, personal information, time or commitment.
- There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes—sometimes the only people who make money are the scammers.
- Do not agree to offers or deals right away. If you think you have spotted a great opportunity, insist on time to get independent advice before making a decision.
- Do not hand over money or personal information, or sign anything until you have done your homework and checked the credentials of the company that you are dealing with.
- Do not rely on glowing testimonials: find solid evidence of a company's success.
- Log directly on to a website that you are interested in rather than clicking on links provided in an email.
- Never send money, or give credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust.
- If you spot a scam or have been scammed, get help. Contact the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#), the [Competition Bureau](#) or your local police for assistance.

For more information on how to not be a victim, click [here](#)

Source: <http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/03074.html>

APRIL 6-12, 2014 VICTIMS OF CRIME AWARENESS WEEK

For more information on events that will be happening around the province, please go [here](#)

Source: <http://www.endingviolence.org/node/1583>