

Winter News 2020



Block Watch



Saanich Police Block Watch Office
250-475-4365 • blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca



Theft from Vehicle Prevention

With the introduction of mandatory passive anti-theft devices in 2007 (your car will not start without a computer chip built in to your key), theft of vehicles has gone down significantly in Saanich. What seems to be on the rise is theft from vehicles.

Here are some tips on how to protect your vehicle from getting broken in to.

Lock your Doors— Sounds simple, but many people don't secure their vehicles, especially when parked in their driveway. Thieves are looking for an easy mark, and simply by leaving your vehicle unlocked makes your vehicle much more desirable for entering.

Remove all Valuables - Never leave ANYTHING on display when you leave your vehicle. Even loose change, cigarettes, cigarette lighters, sunglasses, CD's, cell phones, stereos, cameras, and clothing, if they can see it they will steal it. Any bags left behind would be considered desirable as they have no idea what is in them.

Park Safely - When parking at home, always use your garage if you have one, and lock both your vehicle and your garage. If you don't have a garage, try to park in a well-lit, open place. When parking at work or your local mall, park in a well-lit open place.



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Remove Portable Accessories - Removing portable music devices, tablets, and phones and locking them in the trunk or taking them with you, will deter thieves.

These simple but effective things that anyone can do, can make all the difference. Let's work together to target harden our vehicles and reduce theft.

Saanich Emergency Program Presentations

As Winter approaches it's a good idea to get our emergency plans organized. Saanich Emergency Preparedness is helping out with this. They have three information sessions for the community that are free of charge and very helpful to help get you on the right path.

Free Emergency Preparedness Presentations:

Wednesday, Feb 19 - 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Saanich Commonwealth Place
4636 Elk Lake Drive
Register for course #29649 at 250-475-7600

Monday, Mar 9 - 7pm - 8:30 pm
Cedar Hill Golf Course 1400 Derby Rd.
Register for course #29186 at 250-475-7121

Wednesday, Apr 22 - 7pm - 8:30 pm
Pearkes Rec. Centre 3100 Tillicum Rd.
Register for course #27377 at 250-475-5400

Wednesday, May 27- 7pm - 8:30 pm
Saanich Commonwealth Place
4636 Elk Lake Drive
Register for course #29648 at 250-475-7600

They also have special speaker presentations planned. Check their website for more information.

Speaker Series:

Speaker Series topics can include the hazards around us, the utilities we use or different perspectives on responding to an emergency.

Tuesday, February 11 - 7pm - 8pm
Cedar Hill Recreation Centre 3220 Cedar Hill Rd.
Register for course #29188 at 250-475-7100

Wednesday, April 8, - 7pm - 8pm
Saanich Commonwealth Place 4636 Elk Lake Dr.
Register for course #29650 at 250-475-7600



We need community members

to volunteer with us!

If you would like to join the
Ace Team please go to:

SaanichPolice.ca

**For more info and an
application form!**

Or email us at

ace@saanichpolice.ca

In the suit or as a helper to Ace

Join us at community events,

Give back in a fun way!

Suspicious Vehicles: How to spot them

What is a suspicious vehicle? There are a few things you can look for, sometimes it isn't what it is, it's where it is.

- Abandoned vehicles, or unfamiliar parked vehicles, especially near sensitive areas, high traffic/populated areas, common areas, etc.
- Unexpected/unfamiliar delivery trucks



- Vehicles containing suspicious persons, parcels or materials
- A group of individuals sitting in a parked vehicle that appear to be monitoring pedestrian behavior
- Vehicles arriving and being left at odd hours and at odd locations
- Unusual powders or liquids/droplets/mists/clouds leaking or spilling from vehicles

Now you've spotted them, what do you do now?

This list is merely a guideline, if you have any concerns about a person or a vehicle, please contact Police at 911 in emergent circumstances. In non-emergent circumstances, please call the non-emergency line: 250 475-4321



You can help us to carry out our enquiries by providing:

- The basis for your suspicions. What are they doing?
- The make/model and colour of any vehicle involved. If you can get the license plate of the vehicle write it down or type it into your phone as soon as possible to make sure it is accurate.
- A good description of any person(s) you have concerns about involving the vehicle. What clothing are they wearing? Are they carrying anything?
- The direction of travel of any person or vehicle. Where are they going?



Do not put yourself at any risk to obtain infor-

Helpful Tips

 1 Ensure your doors are always locked and the key is in your pocket	3 Never leave money in plain sight	IBC TOP 10 TIPS Protect Your Vehicle and its Contents #LockItOrLoseIt	7 Keep your vehicle registration certificate and proof of insurance on you	 ibc.ca Twitter Facebook YouTube
2 Always park in well-lit areas	4 Always roll up your car windows		8 Take electronics, including your cell phone, with you	
	5 Put shopping bags and other parcels in the trunk	IBC TOP 10 TIPS Protect Your Vehicle and its Contents #LockItOrLoseIt	9 Don't leave your car running while unattended	 10 If parking in the same parking lot often, be sure to park in different spots each day
6 Ensure GPS is put in a safe, out of sight location				

1 Make sure your bicycle is in good repair by doing a quick ABC (air, brakes, chain) check		IBC TOP 10 TIPS #Cycle Safety	7 Allow pedestrians to go first at street crossings	 ibc.ca Twitter Facebook Instagram YouTube
2 Always use a bicycle that is the right size	4 Always wear a properly fitting, standards-association-approved helmet		8 Always watch for cars coming out of driveways and pulling away from curbs	
	5 Always ride single file, on the right side of the road and with the flow of traffic	IBC TOP 10 TIPS #Cycle Safety	9 Always obey traffic rules and shoulder check regularly, especially before you make a turn	 10 Make yourself visible when cycling at night or in low-light conditions
3 Equip bicycles with reflectors, headlights and a bell or horn	6 Never carry a passenger on a bicycle built for one			

From IBC

1 Don't share your personal information online		IBC TOP 10 TIPS Cyber Security #CSAM	7 Be social media savvy	 ibc.ca Twitter Facebook Instagram YouTube
2 Guard your financial information	4 Before opening a website, ensure the URL is trustworthy		8 Make sure your home Wi-Fi network is protected	
	5 Install security software	IBC TOP 10 TIPS Cyber Security #CSAM	9 Only download programs from reputable websites	10 Take the time to report the crime; call 1-877-IBC-TIPS
3 Change your login and passwords regularly	6 Check financial statements regularly and look for any unusual activity			



**Saanich Police Department
Block Watch Office**
blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca
www.saanichpolice.ca



If you have observed a crime, or a crime has occurred to you or your property, **contact police immediately, not the Block Watch office.**

Call 911 for emergencies. For a non-emergency or if the crime has already occurred & is non-life threatening call 250-475-4321.