

Outdoor Crime: It's that time of year again



Unfortunately, the warmer weather brings out the warm weather crime.

There have been several reports of sheds being entered on residential properties throughout Saanich. Since March 15, residents have reported to the Saanich Police that sheds on their properties had been entered and in most cases, items had been stolen. The common theme in all of these four incidents was that the sheds were not locked, making it easy for the suspect(s) to enter. While we would like to alert the public of these break and

enters occurring in our community, we also would like to take this opportunity to ask residents to check their unlocked sheds to determine if any items are missing. Remember to secure anything else you might have stored in your backyard like ladders, which can be used to gain entry in to your home.

If you think a theft has occurred, please contact the Saanich Police using our non-emergency line at 250-475-4321. Never report crime to the Block Watch Office

“A simple lock on the door and keeping shed windows closed can be useful deterrents against thieves looking for quick items to steal. Other crime prevention methods include adding motion sensor lighting and a home security camera.”

-Cst. Markus Anastasiades - Public Information and Communications Officer



Saanich Emergency Preparedness

Virtual Emergency Preparedness Presentations:

Learn all about this vital program and never leave the comfort of your own home. Find out what you REALLY need to do and get ready to be truly prepared for an emergency.

Tuesday, April 27 – 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Tuesday, May 25 – 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Tuesday, June 15 – 7:00 – 8:00 pm



Virtual Volunteer Information Sessions:

Would you like to help make this program happen? Become a volunteer and learn everything you need to in order for that to happen.

Monday, April 26 – 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Monday, May 31 – 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Virtual Speaker Series – Topic TBA

Tuesday, May 11 – 7:00 – 8:00 pm



To register for any of these sessions
please email sep@saanich.ca

Phone Scams



Sadly, they are on the rise once more, and now they have our cell phone numbers! Scammers can now spoof WHERE the call is coming from to appear even more legitimate. Here are some signs of common scams.

How to Recognize a Phone Scam

Phone scams come in many forms, but they tend to make similar promises and threats, or ask you to pay certain ways. Here's how to recognize a phone scam.

There is no prize

The caller might say you were “selected” for an offer or that you’ve won a lottery. But if you have to pay to get the prize, it's not a prize.

You won't be arrested

Scammers might pretend to be law enforcement or a federal agency. They might say you'll be arrested, fined, or deported if you don't pay taxes or some other debt right away. The goal is to scare you into paying. But real law enforcement and federal agencies won't call and threaten you.

You don't need to decide now

Most legitimate businesses will give you time to think their offer over and get written information about it before asking you to commit. Take your time. Don't get pressured into making a decision on the spot.

There's never a good reason to send cash or pay with a gift card

Scammers will often ask you to pay in a way that makes it hard for you to get your money back — by wiring money, putting money on a gift card, prepaid card or cash reload card, or using a money transfer app. Anyone who asks you to pay that way is a scammer.

Government agencies aren't calling to confirm your sensitive information or threatening to arrest you

It's never a good idea to give out sensitive information like your Social Insurance number to someone who calls you unexpectedly, even if they say they are with the Social Insurance Bureau or Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Phone Scams Continued.....

Any scam can happen over the phone. But here are some common angles phone scammers like to use:

Imposter scams

A scammer pretends to be someone you trust — a government agency like the Social Insurance Bureau or the CRA, a family member, a love interest, or someone claiming there's a problem with your computer. The scammer can even have a fake name or number show up on your caller ID to convince you.

Debt relief and credit repair scams

Scammers will offer to lower your credit card interest rates, fix your credit, or get your student loans forgiven if you pay their company a fee first. But you could end up losing your money and ruining your credit.

Business and investment scams

Callers might promise to help you start your own business and give you business coaching, or guarantee big profits from an investment. Don't take their word for it. Learn about the Federal Trade Commission's Business Opportunity Rule, and check out investment opportunities with the BC Securities Commission.

Charity scams

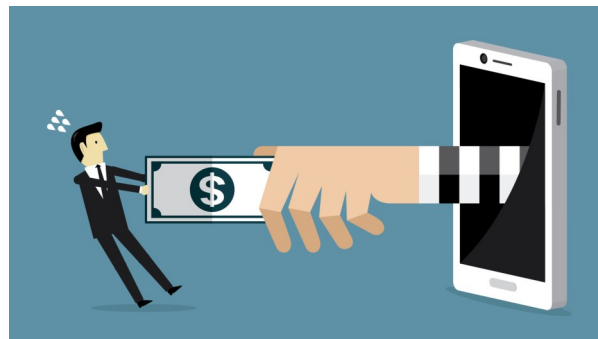
Scammers like to pose as charities. Scams requesting donations for disaster relief efforts are especially common on the phone. Always check out a charity before you give, and don't feel pressured to give immediately over the phone before you do.

Prize and lottery scams

In a typical prize scam, the caller will say you've won a prize, but then say you need to pay a registration or shipping fee to get it. But after you pay, you find out there is no prize.

If you get a scam call

HANG UP, engaging shows the person or computer program calling you that they have a "live" number and you will receive more calls. Do NOT trust your call display, the scammer can now emulate any number they want, including local law enforcement numbers, banks, etc. Be safe, be cautious and as always, if it sounds too good to be true, it is.



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

