

January 2019 Block Watch Newsletter



Thefts from vehicle: 35 cases reported

Items taken: Insurance papers, Nexus Cards, passports, birth certificates, wallet with credit cards, bank cards and other identification, empty Starbucks gift cards, lottery ticket, loose change, a watch, gifts, iPhone, iPhone charger, blue tooth adaptor, a hat, sweaters, winter jacket, rubber boots, runners, golf bag with clubs and golf shoes, hockey bag with gear, back pack with clothing, guitar, ear buds, stereo, high visibility vest, hard hat and respirator, steel toed boots, rotary laser, a scope, a charger case for an electric vehicle, a flash light, CD's, prescription and regular sunglasses, prescription glasses, keys for business and for a friends residence, a water bottle, rear license plates and validation tags.

Most common items taken: Wallets, Nexus cards, Keys.

Most Unusual item taken: Underground electrical scanning device. Sewer tanks from underneath a motor home were unbolted but thieves were not able to remove them.

Leave nothing in your vehicle. Thieves will take anything.

One victim lost a pair of prescription glasses valued at over one thousand dollars. Please take the time to remove anything of value before thieves do it for you.

Stolen Autos: 2 cases reported.

- 1999 Honda Civic – Attempt theft only.
- 1999 Dodge Durango – Attempt theft only.

Other Thefts: 5 cases reported.

A bicycle was taken from a first floor balcony. A thief, using a ladder from the building, was interrupted trying to take another bicycle from a balcony. A Wallet was taken from a business. A wallet fell onto the driveway and was stolen. A person was observed looking in a neighbour's mail box. The alert neighbour followed the male from a safe distance and was able to provide police with a license plate number of the car associated to the suspect.

Mischief: 20 cases reported

Other: Cardboard stuffed into door latch to prevent it locking so thief could return at a later time. Damage to a residence by a relative. Damage to door handles and frames and windows of buildings, a fence panel was damaged. Planter tipped over.

To Vehicles: Objects strewn around. Male noted inside vehicle. Windows broken, signal arm and steering column damaged, door handles broken off. Tires slashed. Doors left open on vehicles during heavy rain storm. 4 vehicles had windshields smashed. (Suspect arrested and charged.)

Break & Enters: 6 cases reported.

- Two offices broken into. In one break-in a side door was pried open to access the building. In the second report a male was observed in driveway in the early morning hours by the manager. The male excused his actions by asking for directions. It was later noted that the office had been broken into.
- Homeless persons broke into the electrical room for use as a shelter.
- Two Underground Parkade were targeted. Thieves gained access through a stairway door, in the first case, and by prying open front door in the second. A resident arrived home in the early morning hours and saw the damage to the main door. He immediately contacted police who apprehended a male and female breaking into storage lockers.
- Vacant residence accessed through unlocked window by a previous tenant.
- BC Hydro property entered via a hole in the fence.
- Construction site: Front door pried open.

Taken: Keys to suite, jewelry, copper wiring, and tools.

Frauds & Scams: 5 cases reported.

- Intended victim received numerous phone calls stating she had won a vacation and asking her to call back. Victim recognized this as a scam.
- Victim received an e-mail from the 'Bank of Montreal' claiming she was a victim of fraud and asked her to call back on the number provided. Victim called in and provided personal and banking information. She was then told by the fraudster to call Equifax and given another number. The victim then did a google search and found that the number provided for Equifax was associated to scams and not the real contact number. Checks with her bank showed that thousands of dollars were charged to her master card.
- Victim discovered that her house, which she is in the process of selling, is listed on Craigslist for rent. Victim contacted the company to have the fraudulent advertisement removed.
- Two reports of fraudulent credit card and debit card transactions received. The victim's wallets had either been lost or stolen previously.

Crime Tip of the Month: Elder Abuse.

Abuse of seniors is a major societal issue. Sadly, abuse of elderly people is one of the most under reported crimes in our society. These crimes may include

Abuse means an action, or deliberate behaviour, by a person (s) in a position of trust, such as an adult child, family member, friend or care giver that causes an adult:

- **Physical, emotional or mental harm; and/or**
- **Damage to, or loss of, assets or property.**

Due to the personal nature of these offenses, older people are often too ashamed, embarrassed and fearful of retaliation to report it directly to police or persons of authority.

In addition, the Metro Vancouver area is home to many new immigrant families, which may result in language and cultural barriers preventing immigrant older adults from reporting crime. Research suggests that to address these issues, it is important to educate seniors and give them a voice in the community.

Many of these abuses are criminal offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, such as Theft, Forgery, Extortion, Assault, Intimidation, Threats, and Failure to Provide the Necessities of Life. Very few criminal offences against seniors are brought to the Criminal Justice System.

The main reason for abuse is the use of power and control by one person over another. In cases of financial abuse, the abuser has a false sense of entitlement to the senior's money or possessions. The system can also be abusive. A relationship is abusive when a set of behaviour is used by a person to establish dominance and control.

How can you report Elder Abuse?

Police:

Call **9-1-1** or your local emergency number if you or someone you know is in immediate danger from assault or abuse.

For a non-emergency report call your local police non-emergency number. In White Rock the number to call is 778-593-3600 and select option 1.

Health Link BC:

To speak to someone confidentially and to get more information, call Health Link BC at **8-1-1** (or **7-1-1** for the deaf and hard of hearing)

Crime Stoppers:

The "See Something, Say Something" Elder Abuse Awareness program is a collaboration between Crime Stoppers, seniors' support agencies and the police. The program is design for elders and family members to raise awareness and provide an alternative way to anonymously report suspected elder abuse. 1-800-222-8477 or online <https://www.solvecrime.ca>

Six Types of Elder Abuse

Physical Hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, burning, or force causing injury	Sexual Engaging in sexual acts without consent	Emotional Harming self-worth or emotional well-being, name calling, and scaring
Neglect Failing to meet basic needs like food, housing, clothing, and medical care	Abandonment Leaving elders alone or no longer providing care	Financial Illegally misusing an elder's money, property, or assets