



Block Watch NEWS



SAANICH POLICE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Third Quarter 2022



Summer Time Tips for a Crime-Free Season

At Home

- ...# Keep doors in your home closed and locked including your garage doors. An open door is an invitation for potential crime.
- ...# Be a good neighbor and alert police to any unusual activity in your neighborhood.
- ...# Plan for a vacation by having your mail and newspapers stopped or having a neighbor pick them up. Leave inside lights on timers to create the impression that your house is occupied. Be sure to set your alarm system. Have a lawn service or neighbour mow your lawn.

On the Road

- ...# Do not leave valuables or cash in your car. If you must leave items in your car, lock them in the trunk. If you have folding rear seats, make sure those are locked too.
- ...# Be alert for children playing in neighbourhoods and residential areas. Young children may be more focused about catching a ball that rolls into a street than watching for vehicles coming toward them.

With Children

- ...# Provide a list of phone numbers of neighbours, family and friends that your child can call in case of an emergency. Make sure your child knows how to dial 911 and when it is appropriate to do so.
- ...# Know the route your child will take, to and from a given location. Remind your child never to take a shortcut or deviate from the agreed-upon route.
- ...# Establish rules for using the Internet. Children should have adult supervision when online. Make sure your child knows to never give out personal information on the Internet.
- # Require your child to check in with a parent before leaving the house and when returning home.

Our Summer Crime Prevention Workers



Adrian Castro: I will be continuing my studies at Camosun College in the Criminal Justice Program in Fall 2022 and will acquire a diploma by Summer 2023. Due to my career goal of being in law enforcement, I am thrilled with having been selected for a team leader position with the Crime Prevention team as it has helped me gain community exposure that I would not have received otherwise, and strengthen skills that are required to further enhance my chances of a career at policing. In the future, I would like to promote this position to other students aspiring to have a career related to policing.



Anika Maclaren: I am in the Criminal Justice Program and entering my second year in the fall of 2022. My life long goal is to become a police officer with Saanich Police Department or Victoria Police Department. I have always had a passion for policing as I hope to make a difference within my community. I hope that the experience and connections I make as a summer student with Saanich Police will follow me throughout my career endeavors.



Nasli Ortega-Maya: I have spent the last three years in the Criminal Justice Program at Camosun College, and will be graduating with my diploma this fall. I will be continuing my education at Royal Roads University with the goal of eventually going to law school. This position as a summer student has combined my passion for the criminal justice system and community, while giving me invaluable opportunities. I am so grateful and can't wait to continue my career within the field.



Zack Evans: I am currently a crime prevention worker that is a part of Community Engagement Division and my future career goal is being Police officer for SPD. I am half way through an undergraduate degree in Criminology from Simon Fraser University and enjoy learning about all areas of the Canadian criminal justice system. My experience as a student crime prevention worker with Saanich Police has been nothing but amazing because I get to engage with all members of the community and I get to meet these community members at local events in Saanich BC.

Camping Crime Prevention Trips



How do we become proactive of protecting our campsite and all of our camping gear and belongings? Let's get down to the nitty gritty with these campsite theft prevention tips.

If you've noticed, campgrounds and RV parks are posting release of liability disclaimers in their campground rules and check-in information. While the campground management may try to practice good campground security, it's still not the campground owner's job to keep sticky-fingered

thieves from taking your stuff. So it's important to keep tabs on your campsite while you're present and when you step out to go exploring.

A few of the most-reported stolen property from campgrounds and RV parks are electrical surge protectors, portable generators, grills, propane fire pits, bicycles, and of course, those pricy Yeti coolers. .

So, the question remains, "How could RVers and campers keep from falling victim to campsite theft at campground, regardless of where they park?"

Anything that is portable, unsecured, unlocked or not tied down has the potential to disappear.

When planning your camping trip research campgrounds and RV parks at your destination. Crowd-sourced websites post reviews that give you perspective of whether or not you want to camp there. Also, see if the campground or RV park have ample security measures.

While introverts like myself aren't going to purposely start knocking on doors to meet folks, it is wise to meet your campsite neighbors. Ask them if there have been any theft issues you need to be concerned about. Also, if you're stepping away and you feel comfortable asking, see if they will keep an eye on your campsite.

Still though, if something comes up missing, don't place blame on anyone but yourself if something does disappear. If you see or hear something that raises the hair on the back of your neck, ask the campground staff for a different site. And if you really feel uncomfortable, leave completely. That's why RVs have wheels!



Campground Security and Theft Prevention

“Stow Before You Go”; whether it’s when you go to bed or go out exploring. Don’t forget to put away your bluetooth speaker because those can away walk too.

If you don’t have the room to stow all of your property inside your RV, consider getting a small tent (only if the campground allows it) to put your belongings in. Though not fail-safe, it does hide your stuff makes your gear less of a target. That said, a tent is not a theft deterrent and can be easily accessed. Be sure to lock up all of your camping gear even if it’s inside the tent.



Permanently mark your personal property and camping gear by engraving your province abbreviation with your driver’s license number. By doing so, the police may easily identify it as yours if your property is recovered. Also, it wouldn’t hurt to put your phone number, so just in case a Good Samaritan finds it, they can call you to get it returned. Another campsite theft prevention tip is to take photos of serial numbers on each item to prove it’s yours. If there’s an engraving of a serial number, do a rubbing with the side of a pencil onto a piece of paper. Until you can get a permanent engraver, consider getting your own name brand decals and sticking them in hidden or inconspicuous locations on your property.

- ..# Don’t set yourself up to become a victim of theft before it even happens.
- ..# Don’t advertise your campground location on social media.
- ..# Sometimes we (collectively speaking) may be unknowingly advertising our gear simply by posting photos of our bikes, camp chairs, fire pits or even coolers at our campsite.
- ..# By sharing your information on social media, you’re pretty much providing a catalog for thieves to shop before they stop at your campsite.
- ..# Think before posting on social media of your exact location and time.

Take a photo of your setup showing the surroundings and anything that associates the location. Such as a street sign, a campground name, etc. That way if anything is stolen, you have proof it was there.

We’ve heard the saying, “a lock keeps honest people honest”. No lock is 100% theft proof, we get that. However, keeping your camping gear, bicycles, kayaks, and even your RV surge protector under lock and key buys time for someone to notice a theft in action. So, anytime you leave your campsite, turn in for the night or even take a simple 30 minute nap, stow your gear and lock your items to a picnic table, RV, or pole. When you place your bicycles on your vehicle’s bike rack, lock them to your rack.



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