

# CRIME PREVENTION

## WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

## NEWSLETTER

### How to Be a Good Witness

“A picture is worth a 1000 words.” Being able to accurately describe an event and provide descriptions are extremely valuable when reporting a crime. The more information that is gathered and circulated quickly, the better the chance police have in preventing further injury, property loss and catching the suspect(s) responsible.

When you witness a crime, it is a good idea to write everything down as soon as you can and report it to the police. It is essential to know the 4 W’s (Who, What, When, Where) because these are questions the call-takers will ask. Make sure to gather details from a safe and covert position. Never put yourself at risk.

**What** happened? **When** did the event happen? **Where** did it take place? **Who** is this person and what does that person look like? What are they wearing, any logos on their clothing, and types of shoes? What brand or colour are they wearing? When describing a person it’s always good to start from the head down. Pay attention to any distinctive features such as scars, piercings, tattoos, or the way they walked or talked.

Another thing to pay attention is their form of transportation. Did they walk, bike or drive? If a vehicle was involved, details you should make note of are the license plate, make, model, colour, location and direction of travel. Whether the suspect got into the passenger seat or driver seat can also be useful in helping the police identify the correct vehicle.

This might sound like a lot to remember and pay attention to. Good news is, the ability to observe and recall details can strengthen with practice.



### Let’s Practice

Cover up picture number 2 and 3. Set the timer to one minute then try and remember as much detail as possible about picture number 1. When the timer goes off, cover up picture number 1 and uncover picture number 2. What is missing? After you’re done, cover up picture number 2 and uncover picture number 3. What else is missing now? Games like this one help improve one’s capacity to observe and remember details.

## Cryptocurrency Scam



Between January to April 2022, Richmond RCMP received 22 reports of cryptocurrency frauds with a total amount of losses reported at approximately \$ 2.6 million.

“There was one investigation where the victim was reportedly defrauded of \$ 550,000.00. In this case the victim made a series of investments in what he believed were legitimate foreign exchange companies only to discover he had been tricked, says Corporal Melissa Lui, Richmond RCMP Economic Crime Unit. These fraudsters know exactly what they are doing and once they have the money it is easy to move it so it cannot be traced or recovered.”

Richmond RCMP see three primary trends in reports in Richmond for cryptocurrency frauds. The reported frauds typically involve fake investment schemes, romance scams or individuals posing as representatives of a government agency.

These fraudsters can be extremely convincing and use a multitude of tactics to trick people. Whether through charm or threats, these fraudsters are highly focused on achieving their end goal; getting people’s money.

In March of 2020 Richmond RCMP launched a campaign where businesses could display a sign near bitcoin machines, gift card carousels or tills in the hopes of warning potential victims against these scams. It is a voluntary program, which has been welcomed by a variety of businesses throughout Richmond.

“Unfortunately, these fraudsters keep finding new and unsuspecting victims, says Corporal Lui, We want to keep your money out of these fraudsters hands, which is why we will continue to remind and work hard to educate the public about cryptocurrency frauds.”

To help prevent yourself from falling victim to cryptocurrency frauds, Richmond RCMP recommend:

- Do your due diligence, research a company to confirm its legitimacy before investing;
- If someone claiming to be from a government agency and asks for bitcoin, Google Play or iTunes gift cards as a method of payment hang up immediately. No government agency would accept these methods as payments;
- If you meet someone online via a dating app or other social media sites who always has an excuse to not meet in person but brings up an investment opportunities; do not invest or give them money.

For more tips and ways to protect yourself from being scammed, visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online.

If you have been a victim of these frauds or suspect someone may be trying to scam you contact your local police.

**Richmond RCMP Non-emergency line: 604-278-1212**

**Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre: 1-888-495-8501 or report online at [www.antifraudcentre.ca](http://www.antifraudcentre.ca)**

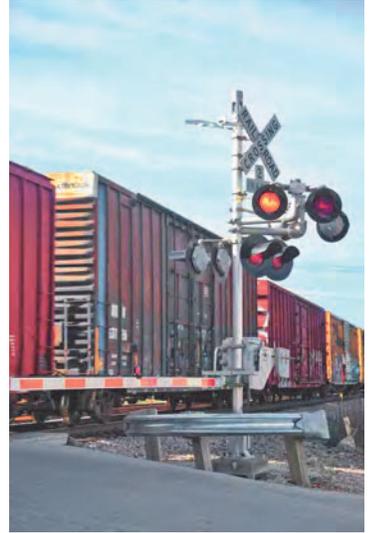
## Recognize Reject Report



## How to Be Safe Around the Railway

In 2021, there were 194 reported incidents with 60 fatalities and 54 seriously injured. Many if not all of these incidents are preventable by your commitment to safety. Crossing safety is a shared responsibility between cyclists, pedestrians, motorists, and the railway. At every crossing, you must yield the right of way and stop if necessary. Cars and people must stop if the train is coming and let it go by. The crossbuck may or may not be accompanied by flashing light, bell and/or gate. Regardless of which device is present, everything and everyone must stop and yield the right of way to the train.

- Stop, look both ways, and listen. Know that trains always have the right of way.
- Don't stop on the tracks. Make sure you have room to get across. Once you enter the crossing, keep moving.
- Stop 15 feet away from flashing red lights, lowered gates, a signaling flagman or a stop sign.
- Never drive around a lowering gate or ignore signals.
- After a train passes, wait for gates to fully rise and for all lights to stop flashing before you cross.
- Never assume that there is only one train coming from a single direction.



### Crossing Safety - Together We Save Lives!

## To start a Block Watch Group

Interested in starting a Block Watch group? Let us tell you a little about Block Watch! Block Watch is a program that brings the police and the communities together. This program helps you build connections and relationships with people in your neighborhood and the police while striving for the common goal of crime prevention.

### Select a Captain/Co-Captain

- ◇ Each Captain/Co-Captain must submit an application and complete a Police Information Check

### Recruit and build your group

- ◇ Recruit homes that are near to you. To build an effective Block Watch, try to involve 50-75% of households in your area. We will provide you with recruitment packages.

### Complete activation of your team

1. **Complete** Block Watch Captain/Participant training - Register as many of your group as you can for a virtual training session.
2. **Submit** your participating household list.
3. **Qualify** for Block Watch street signs once above steps are completed.

If you are interested in creating a Block Watch group in your area, email us your name and address at [blockwatch@richmond.ca](mailto:blockwatch@richmond.ca) or call 604-207-4829.

# BUSINESS LINK

## WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME

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### Help Prevent Commercial Break and Enter

When people think about "commercial break-in", it often conjures images like mastermind thieves that have canvassed the area multiple times before hand, and came up with the most sophisticated plan in overcoming complex security systems. Though, in reality, the average break-in usually only last between three to five minutes via easy point of entries like an unsecured back door or the roof. Burglars often simply try the door handle or test the window to see if it is locked. When that fails, they usually move to the next place unless they see something very attractive inside. At that point, a common method of entry is by breaking down the door or window at its locking mechanism. The many misconceptions about what happens during a forced entry can lead to inadequate security measures, hence why it is important for us to provide you with the facts.

A lot of commercial break-ins occur outside of business hours and often times, it's through open windows or doors that someone simply forgot to secure. Thieves are looking for the weakest target. The more security steps you take to delay a thief, the more likely they will be detected and apprehended.

Before locking the doors and leaving for the night, do a final walkthrough to make sure all the tasks on your closing checklist have been completed.

- Check to make sure all doors and points of entry are closed and locked.
- Never assume your store is empty, do a visual inspection of all areas including restrooms, dressing rooms, stockrooms and closets.
- Keep valuable property, equipment and tools away from windows, out of sight, and locked up in a secured place.
- Turn on the security alarm and cameras.
- Keep track of keys and access cards. Make sure all keys are returned to limit after hour access.



### Email Break & Enter Alerts

To receive email alerts of neighbourhood commercial break and enters, register your business name and street address at:

[RCMP\\_Business\\_Link@richmond.ca](mailto:RCMP_Business_Link@richmond.ca)



Whether you own a retail business or a warehouse, the mentioned steps are still applicable. Be in control when it comes to your business, take precautions, and help prevent commercial break-ins.