

Business Watch (JULY) Monthly Newsletter



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Business Watch Participant,

Hello everyone! Happy summer, we have had a generous dosage of sunshine lately and hope the warm weather is treating you well! We would like to remind businesses that our elementary and high school students are on summer break now. Please contact the [Ladner Community Police](#) if you need information on any of our programs that are at your disposal.



The following statistics are a summary of reported Ladner commercial crime offences in [JUNE 2015](#).

Robbery	0
Break & Enter Commercial	1
Theft of Vehicle	1
Theft From Vehicle	18

Break and Enter Commercial

There was one reported break-ins in South Delta during the month of June. Suspect(s) accessed the building by removing the glass and then drilled the locks on the vending machines. The Delta Police Department is continuing their investigation.

Theft from Vehicle

A total of 27 vehicles were broken into in Ladner and Tsawwassen in June 2015.

Several of the vehicles were left insecure with property in plain view. Targeted items include wallets containing ID, cash and credit cards, electronics and valtags. The Delta Police Department arrested two individuals for these thefts.

It is extremely important that businesses with business and personal vehicles take the time to secure their vehicles and belongings from the possibility of theft.

- Keep track of where you have parked your car – try parking in a secure area that is well lit
- Make sure you lock your vehicle when leaving it unattended
- Hide all valuables from sight - Items such as a GPS device, cell phone, wallet or a digital music player may entice criminals for an easy steal. Place these expensive items out of eyesight to make your vehicle seem less attractive to thieves.



Business Safety from Theft/Robberies

For most part robberies occur at predictable times. Opening and closing periods and lunch hours are particularly vulnerable times due to low staffing and large amounts of cash on hand. Robberies increase during the holiday season due to the increased cash volume and the presence of large crowds that distract and preoccupy store and company personnel.

Report suspicious activity. If you observe an individual or occupied vehicle lingering around your business for a time or in a manner that makes you suspicious or uncomfortable, write down the license number, color of the car and description of the individual(s) and contact your local police. Be sure to inform other employees of your suspicion.

Perform regular “**Risk Assessments**” of employees’ environment:

- Identify types and probability of risks to employees.
- Provide means to document risk assessments.
- Make results available to employees and explain any new implementations.

(For a Risk Assessment sample template, visit “Take Care: How to Develop and Implement a Workplace Violence Prevention Program” www.worksafebc.com/publications/health.../take_care.pdf) p. 19

Train employees not to resist if they are threatened with violence: Consider an installation of a panic or emergency alarm for workers. *(For more information on strategies, visit “Preventing Violence, Robbery, and Theft: A Guide for Retail Owners, Managers, and Workers”*

http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/by_topic/assets/pdf/preventing_violence.pdf),

p. 21



Emergency Preparedness

Is your business prepared for an Earthquake? Making a plan is something many businesses put off, so to help start the conversation, here are some tips to keep your business and employees safe and ready.

- Speak to your strata or building manager to find out if your walls are braced, if there are any roof tiles loose and if the building is in good repair. Work with them to ensure repairs are made.
- Check to ensure that any pieces of heavy furniture or appliances are secure to the walls or floors and will not cause damage if they topple.
- Fix mirrors and wall hangings so that they will not fall off their hooks if the building were to violently shake.
- Put anti-skid mats like Velcro under small appliances like TV's and computers.
- Store important documents in a fire-proof lockable cabinet.
- Know how to shut off the utilities in your premises – gas, electricity and water.
- Ensure that any flammable liquids, like cleaning products, cannot spill, are away from heat and are safely locked in a cabinet.
- Make sure you have fire extinguishers, and that you know how to use them.
- Make an earthquake kit including first aid supplies, water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, an emergency blanket and a whistle.
- Nominate an employee to be the emergency coordinator.
- Make sure all employees understand the duck and cover rule and know where it is safe to find cover.
- Plan and practice an evacuation of your building. Establish a meeting point.
- Create a list of emergency contacts for staff members, suppliers and clients.
- Make a communications plan for contacting those staff members, suppliers and clients.
- Ensure that some, if not all, employees know who to use a fire extinguisher.
- Train your employees in first aid, including CPR.

For more information on Earthquake safety for small businesses visit:

http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/by_topic/assets/pdf/emergency_response_guide.pdf



For more information, or to arrange a crime prevention training session, contact the Ladner Community Police Station at ladcops@deltapolice.ca with the email title “BW Crime Prevention Program”