

For Immediate Release

“Clock Change Safety”

It’s dark by dinnertime now; don’t let crime ruin your winter night out

Vancouver, BC (November 4, 2019) – Daylight Saving Time is back this week, and so is [BC Crime Prevention Week \(November 1-7\)](#). With nights getting longer and darker, and the winter social season ramping up, it’s time to remember a few key things to keep safe. Don’t let criminals use the darkness to take advantage of you.

“The safest thing of course is to not go out after dark if you can, but with party season coming and the clocks going back, it’s hard to avoid it altogether,” says Linda Annis, Executive Director of Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers. “Safety tips like these are actually pretty simple, yet lots of people seem to forget them.”

“Always remember to call police or transit police if you become a victim or witness something. We also encourage anyone who has information, but wants to remain anonymous, to contact us at Crime Stoppers through our tips line, online, or through our P3 crime reporting app,” adds Annis. “We pass on only your crime information to police or other authorities. We never reveal to anyone who gave us the information.”

CRIME STOPPERS PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS - FOR DARK WINTER NIGHTS

Walking and taking transit

- Don’t walk alone and stay in well-lit, crowded areas – not in hidden alleys, pathways or wooded areas where no one can see or help protect you.
- Someone bothering you on a train or a bus? Tell the bus driver and contact police by calling 9-1-1 or sending a text to 87-77-77.
- Your favourite tunes can wait. We see it all the time but walking with headphones or earbuds and listening to loud music on a busy street or around traffic is asking for trouble.
- Text a parent or friend occasionally during the evening to let them know where you are, and that you’re OK.

Out on the town

- Familiarize yourself with the layout of a party or concert venue as soon as you arrive. Take note of where event staff or security/police officers and first aid are located.
- Don’t sample drinks from anyone – not even friends and acquaintances. Police will tell you most victims of sexual assault know their attackers. Never let your drink out of your sight. If you do, get a new one.
- Never display large sums of money in public and keep your bag closed. If you do get held up, don’t risk your own safety to protect a wallet or phone. Let it go.
- Be responsible if having a few drinks and have friends you trust there to watch over you.

Driving on dark, cold nights

- Never give a ride to a stranger.
- Keep all the doors locked when you are driving. Open doors can let carjackings happen.
- If someone tries to get inside your vehicle while you are driving, simply drive away...if your unable to do so, lean on the horn to alert others.
- Always park in well-lit areas and away from shrubbery that may conceal someone.
- Always have your keys out and in your hand when heading to your car. Hold them between your thumb and forefinger in a ready position. It's terrible to have to think this way, but If you are attacked, they can be used to defend yourself – and you can easily push the panic button on the fob.
- And before you even start the car, make sure you have enough fuel to complete your journey. Also walk around the car looking for keying or other vandalism, broken lights or flat tires.

Not driving tonight?

- Make sure you plan ahead. Know your route if walking, running, jogging, or biking in the dark.
- Use a valid taxi service and text the cab's registration number to a friend or parents so that they know where you are.
- Should you feel uneasy about a driver, listen to your instincts. If in doubt, don't get in the car.

About Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is a non-profit society and registered charity that offers rewards for anonymous tip information about criminal activity and provides it to investigators in the communities of Metro Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

People can leave anonymous tips in a variety of ways including Crime Stoppers' smartphone app, calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, online at solvecrime.ca, by following the link on the Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers [Facebook page](#) or using the new Crime Stoppers tip reporting app.

Crime Stoppers accepts tips in 115 different languages. If the information provided results in a charge or an arrest, a cash reward may be offered. Tipsters stay anonymous by using code numbers to collect their rewards.

Metro Vancouver Crime Stoppers is not the police and operates solely on funds donated or generated through fundraising events. Tax-deductible donations are gratefully received anytime by accessing the "donate" link at solvecrime.ca. Follow us on Twitter: [@solvecrime](https://twitter.com/solvecrime).

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