



Abbotsford Police Department

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Bob Rich
Chief Constable

"Protecting with Pride"

NEWS RELEASE

APD NEWS RELEASE:

APD FILE #

RELEASE #1

DATE OF RELEASE: May 31, 2012

Incident: Abbotsford Police Focus on Summer Break & Enters

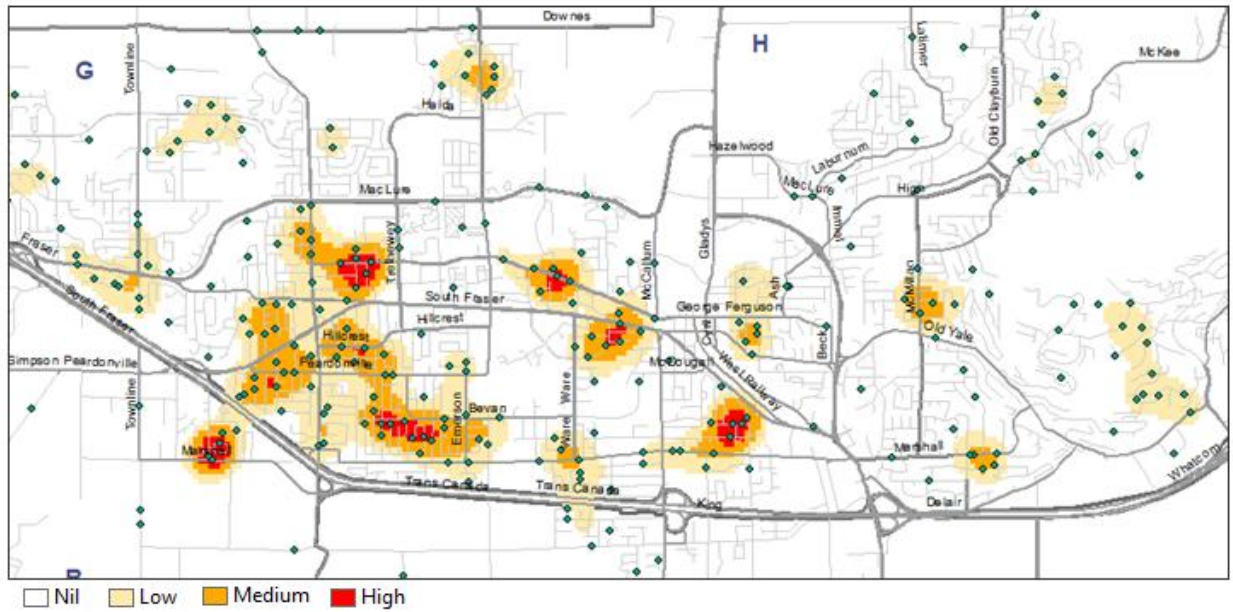
Abbotsford – May 31, 2012.

The Abbotsford Police Department and the city of Abbotsford have enjoyed impressive reductions in property crime over the last three years. The overall category of break and enter has seen a decline of almost 11% during that time period. However, one area that runs against the trend is summertime residential break and enters. Since 2009 the numbers of break-ins occurring in the months of June, July and August have increased. We believe education and improved safety practices by homeowners can make a difference.

Surprisingly, over 1/3 of the break and enters recorded in the summer involve homes with doors and/or windows that are not locked (36%). It is also interesting to note that the majority of the break and enters have occurred during daytime hours. In addition, despite the fact that electronics, jewelry, cash and tools are the most popular items taken by thieves, often nothing is taken. The suspect gains entry into your home and violates your sense of security but sometimes doesn't find what he is looking for on that day.

The most active areas for summertime break and enters are parts of the city where there are the largest concentrations of people. This is important when combined with the correlation of insecure homes and break-ins. Thieves are seizing on opportunities; which means they are trying doors and windows in high density neighbourhoods (target rich environments) where minimal effort is required to gain entry (insecure or inadequately secured homes).

*Our Mission:
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*



Attached is a checklist to help you ensure your home is safe before you leave on your much deserved vacation. In addition, we have created an informational video on the topic as well. Just follow the link to view it
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXmY-eJPgKA&feature=youtu.be>

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APD Summer Vacation Home Safety Checklist

1. Ensure all doors and windows are locked. Use deadbolt locks and window/sliding door lock pins.
2. Use your home alarm system and notify a friend, family member or trusted neighbour of your absence.
3. Give your home the appearance that you are there and not away. Use timer lights, exterior motion detecting lights and consider having the neighbour park in your driveway.
4. Make sure your lawn and landscaping is maintained in your absence.
5. Have someone collect your mail, flyers and newspapers. You can always stop newspaper delivery while you are away if you prefer.
6. Make sure your garage door is completely closed. If thieves get into your garage your house is next.
7. Consider locking fenced areas and access to your backyard. Your neighbour can keep a key to allow access for lawn mowing and so on.
8. Lock your outbuildings and sheds. Valuables are inside those structures so they should be protected.
9. Keep valuables hidden. A set of car keys, portable electronics, cash and identification left close to a window can attract a thief.
10. Do not advertise your absence on social media sites. Facebook is not the place to tell everyone about your vacation dates and the best time to post your photos is when you return home.

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