



Covid-19 Crime Prevention Tips

I hope this email finds you all safe and healthy. There is no doubt that Covid-19 has had a tremendous effect on our local business community. The uncertainty brought about by this pandemic and the incredible financial impact to your businesses is concerning to all of us. Many of you have had to close your businesses entirely; while others are still operating but in a new format under the new Covid-19 guidelines and recommendations. It is clear that everyone has been affected in some way.

The Agassiz RCMP want to take this opportunity to connect with downtown merchants and let you know that during these unprecedented times, our commitment to serve and protect our community is stronger than ever. Downtown foot patrols and visible police presence are a priority. While conducting our routine patrols, we have noticed that some businesses have already done their part in preventing property crime by removing valuables from view. Others have existing security measures in place such as blinds or security bars which act as a deterrent.

It is extremely disheartening to know that some major centres within the Lower Mainland have seen a sharp rise in incidents of property crime and business break and enters targeting closed businesses. Businesses are already facing huge financial impact and hardship and targeted crime is absolutely crushing. The fact is that there are fewer people on the street and police aren't able to be everywhere all of the time. The Agassiz RCMP want to encourage each of you to be pro-active in preventing this criminal activity by taking steps to keep your building and its contents safe.

We are asking all local merchants to consider taking steps to prevent temptation:

- Do not leave any valuables clearly visible or accessible. Remove contents from plain sight.
- Ensure the exterior of your business is well lit.
- If possible, remove all safes, tills and debit machines. Store them at a secure location. If they can't be moved, ensure that their contents and anything of value is emptied and relocated. Till drawers should be emptied and left open so that it is apparent that they are empty. Thieves tend to target anything of value that is portable including computers and electronics. Remove these items if possible.
- Remove any paperwork that contains personal information of clients or staff that criminals could steal to use for identity theft.
- Consider posting signs "CLOSED FOR COVID-19: ALL CASH & VALUABLES HAVE BEEN REMOVED"
- Ensure that the emergency contact list is up to date for any alarm monitoring system.
- Make "regular" visits to monitor your shop/business at sporadic times so as not to establish a pattern.

Please do your part to protect your business from property crime by following these crime prevention measures.

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