

NEWS RELEASE



May 14, 2015

For immediate release

MANITOBANS FAILING TO SLOW DOWN AND MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

CAA Manitoba, RCMP observe hundreds of drivers not obeying new Highway Traffic Act regulation

As many Manitobans flock to their cottages on Manitoba roads this May long weekend, CAA Manitoba and the RCMP are reminding motorists to slow down and move over for emergency vehicles after observing many drivers who did not.

Yesterday, CAA Manitoba and the RCMP watched 316 vehicles drive by a staged scene where a tow truck was pulled over at the side of the Trans-Canada Highway near St. Francois Xavier with its beacons, set to assist a stalled vehicle. Almost 99% of these drivers failed to slow down and move over as they passed the scene, an action punishable by a \$300 fine and 2 demerits, though no tickets were handed out during the assessment.

“Tow trucks drivers, like other emergency workers, deserve a safe space to work,” says Mike Mager, President and CEO of CAA Manitoba. “We’ve lobbied for this legislation for six years, but it means nothing if drivers aren’t following the letter of the law.”

The legislation requires drivers to slow down to 40 km/h when the posted speed limit is less than 79 km/h, and down to 60 km/h when the posted speed limit is 80 km/h or higher while moving to a traffic lane farthest from the emergency vehicle whenever and wherever possible.

“It’s so important that drivers slow down and move over for all emergency workers, like law enforcement, fire paramedics and tow trucks,” says Inspector Joanne Keeping, officer in charge of Traffic Services with the Manitoba RCMP. “It only takes a few moments to do so, but can be the difference between life and death for these workers and the citizens they are assisting.”

Highlights from the assessment include:

- Nearly 11% of drivers observed did not move over at all
- 83% of the drivers observed did move over to the next lane, but of those, only 1% slowed down to 60 km/h
- One motorcycle passing the scene was not moved over and travelling 123 km/h
- One semi failing to slow down and move over was doing 107 km/h
- The average speed of those who did move over but did not slow down was 101 km/h
- The average speed of those who did not move over was 98 km/h

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