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For immediate release

COLLISION REINFORCES NEED TO SLOW DOWN, MOVE OVER

Safety of emergency workers is paramount

WINNIPEG – A collision involving a CAA Manitoba tow truck and a vehicle on the Perimeter Highway yesterday afternoon emphasizes the need to drive to conditions as well as slow down and move over for emergency workers, including tow trucks, working at the side of the road.

The collision occurred on the south Perimeter near McGillivray Boulevard on February 11. A CAA Manitoba tow truck driver was positioned on the shoulder to assist a Member in the ditch. Due to icy conditions, an approaching vehicle in the right lane lost control and rear-ended the back of the tow truck.



“It’s something we see far too often,” says Mike Mager, President and CEO of CAA Manitoba. “If you aren’t driving appropriately for the conditions, you aren’t able to slow down and move over for emergency workers.”

Motorists passing emergency vehicles, roadside assistance vehicles (like tow trucks) or government enforcement officer’s vehicles are required to slow down to 40 km/h if the posted speed limit is less than 80 km/h and 60 km/h if the posted speed limit is higher than 80 km/h while moving over to the furthest lane wherever possible.

In 2009, CAA Manitoba first lobbied the government for this law.

Drivers who do not comply can be ticketed with a \$300.00 fine and two demerit points, up to a maximum of \$2,000 and/or a one year’s driver license suspension issued by a judge.

“This law has been in place for almost 6 years now,” adds Mager. “Yet people are still not slowing down and moving over for emergency workers. It should be common sense.”

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