



CALGARY
POLICE
SERVICE



2010 - CCMTA Police Partnership Award

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CALGARY POLICE SERVICE

Overview & Objective

The Calgary Police Service Traffic Section is made up of 5 separate and distinct units which is made up of approximately 120 members. Each unit plays an important role in building relationships with the community, government agencies and private industry, all working together in a common goal of improving road safety and saving lives.

Traffic Response Units

The Traffic Response Units (TRU) are responsible for the education and enforcement of the Traffic Safety Act throughout the City of Calgary. As the Calgary Police Traffic Section recognizes that impaired driving is a significant threat to the safety of our roadways, our *Check-Stop* program runs 52 weeks a year. The TRU teams rotate through the schedule and target the busiest social nights of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, from 7pm until 5am. A strong working relationship has been developed with the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Volunteers with MADD routinely come out with our officers to our Check-Stop locations and provide high profile community support with educational material.

The Traffic Section has a high visibility, 45 foot bus, equipped with electronics, phone booths for lawyer referral, a washroom & functional breathalyzer room. Although this program runs year round, there are occasions where the hours are increased, specifically the Christmas season where *Check-Stop* operates day and night to further improve road safety.



Our TRU teams also work alongside the RCMP and Alberta Sheriffs several times throughout the year in joint force operations utilizing *Check-Stop*. These operations not only strengthen relationships amongst agencies, it provides a united front and a strong message to the public, that impaired driving is a serious criminal offence.





TRU Continued

In 2009/2010, The Calgary Police Traffic Section in partnership with MADD and the City of Calgary, launched an education and awareness campaign dubbed "Report Impaired Drivers" (RID). Having been successful in other jurisdictions, Calgarians too responded enthusiastically and 911 calls for the RID program jumped 80% from the previous year.



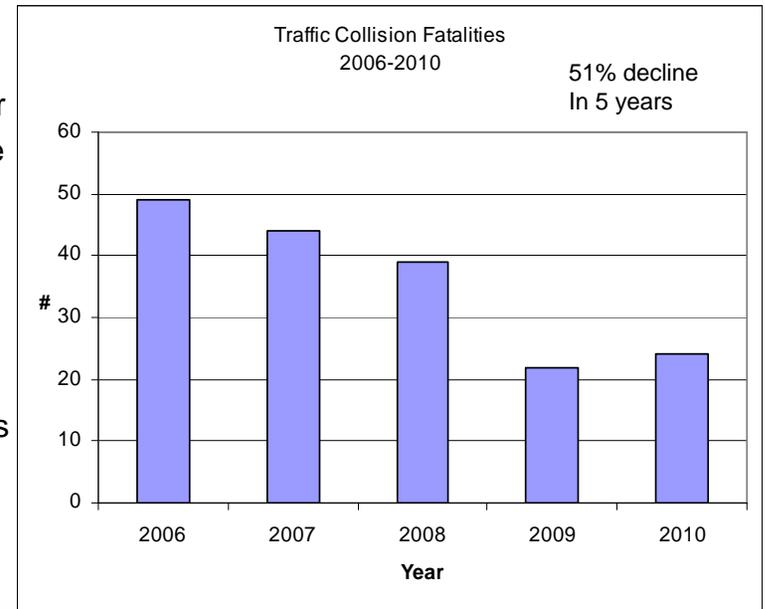
More check-stops as holiday season nears

The Calgary police will be conducting even more check-stops throughout the city now that holiday events and Christmas parties are around the corner. Starting Wednesday, random check-stops will be conducted from noon until 8 p.m. So far there have been nine fatal collisions where alcohol was involved. And police have laid almost 3,000 impaired charges this year. The regular check-stops will also continue from 7 p.m. until 5 a.m. throughout the year.

Internally, the Traffic Section has launched a week long impaired driving course to other members of the Calgary Police Service.

This builds the skills and knowledge of patrol officers throughout the city, which not only increases awareness within the police community, it increases the successful detection, arrest and prosecution of these offenders. A key partner for this program is Mr. Robert Palser, the Traffic Safety Coordinator Crown Prosecutor for Alberta Justice. Mr. Palser provides subject matter expertise for our members, carefully articulating the legal challenges and obstacles that impede the successful prosecution of impaired drivers. This partnership is critical to combat impaired driving, increase successful prosecutions and enhance road safety in the Province of Alberta.

Due to sustained efforts of the Calgary Police, MADD, Alberta Justice, concerned citizens and many other internal and external partners, there has been a 42% decrease in serious injury and fatal collisions involving alcohol. These efforts were a combination of education, increased awareness, training and enforcement.

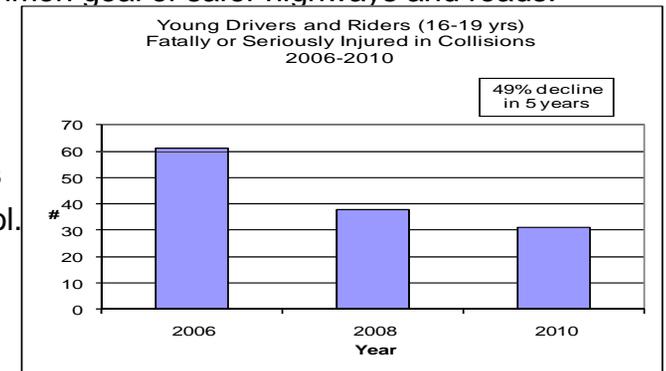




Traffic Education Unit (TEU)

The primary mandate of TEU is collaborating with various agencies to educate the public of the consequences of poor driving behavior. In 2010, TEU officers continue to deliver the “*Safe Driving to Save Lives*” lecture to various government and private agencies looking to impact the safety of their fleet and personnel. Some of these agencies include Altalink, ATCO, CPR, and the City of Calgary. These partnerships are critical in achieving the common goal of safer highways and roads.

The officers in TEU have also built and maintained a productive relationship with Alberta Motor Association (AMA) and the *School Patroller* program. Officers are assigned schools throughout the city, to teach young people of the importance of road safety. Patrollers are selected, trained and monitored, enabling school zones have resources in place to ensure the safety of students coming to and from school. Our TEU officers also take part in an annual AMA picnic which recognizes and rewards the patrollers for all of their hard work in keeping their peers safe.



TEU, in partnership with the Calgary Board of Education also attend city high schools to promote the *Safe Grad* program. This is done in May, just prior to high school proms and grads to ensure timely reminders of the dangers of impaired driving.

Also in partnership with Alberta Health Services, TEU conduct lectures at the Foothills Hospital targeting young drivers with the *Party Program*, educating them on the consequences of drinking and driving. These programs are instrumental in developing proper driving behavior and improving road safety.

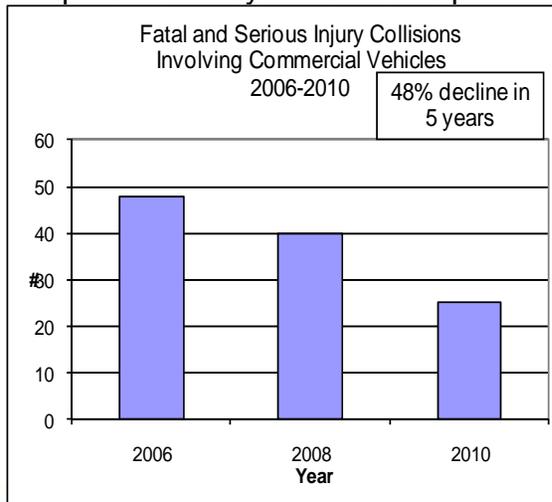


TEU Continued

The Traffic Education Unit has also developed the *Car seat Check-stop* program which randomly stops vehicles to ensure the proper use of child restraints. When an officer finds a child not properly restrained, the parent /driver is issued an offence summons. It is then explained that if the parent/driver attends a voluntary 2 hour seminar that teaches the proper methods of child restraint, the offence summons will be withdrawn. This not only ensures the safety of the child, but educates rather than punishes a well-intentioned parent.

Truck Unit

The CPS Truck Unit has built relationships within the trucking industry to educate and enforce commercial vehicle safety. Our members regularly take part in joint forces commercial vehicle check-stops with agencies such as Edmonton, Lethbridge, RCMP, and Medicine Hat Police Services. When a commercial vehicle is deemed unsafe, it is removed from the road and not permitted back in service until all safety issues have been complied with. Our officers also provide private sector trucking companies weekly lectures and presentations designed to not only improve awareness on the part of the driver, but to foster



relationships between the police and the trucking industry. A key partnership is commercial vehicle safety is the Alberta Motor Transportation Association (AMTA). The Unit collaborates closely with the AMTA to discuss issues and strategies aimed at unsafe industry practices.





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Alcohol Unit

Our Alcohol Unit is tasked with the training and maintenance of roadside screening devices and breathalyzers for the Calgary Police Service. As technical and calibration issues are a common defense in court, the Alcohol Unit collaborates closely with the Crown Prosecutors office to identify emerging trends and issues within the justice system.

The Alcohol Unit also provide subject matter expertise to southern Alberta RCMP stations, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Lacombe Police Services which include training and calibration services. Other partnerships include Alberta Sheriffs Traffic Division, Special Constable positions in the Counties of Rockyview, Black Diamond, Airdrie, Turner Valley and Longview. We continue to share best practices, increase effectiveness and work as a team to improve road safety. In 2010 members of our Alcohol Unit were integral in forming the Alberta Breath Testing Review Committee made up of representatives from Calgary, Edmonton, RCMP and Alberta Justice. This committee is instrumental in improving road safety through recommendations that will see more offenders successfully prosecuted.

The International Association for Chemical Testing and the Canadian Society of Forensic Science are important partners for the Alcohol Unit. These partners provide background and basis for impaired driving charges and ensure the Calgary Police Service stays at the forefront of impaired driving issues to make our roads as safe possible. The Alcohol Unit also houses the Drug Recognition Expert program which targets drivers that are impaired by drugs. This is an emerging detection tool as Calgary and Alberta are rapidly making progress against this threat to road safety.

Specialized Traffic Enforcement Unit (STEU)

This unit is responsible for all automated enforcement within Calgary. This includes photo radar, red light intersection cameras and speed on green enforcement. A civilian analyst collects data on locations in Calgary where there is a high risk of collisions due to speed and/or red light infractions. This information is used to strategically deploy automated resources to deter high risk behavior and improve road safety. This information is communicated on the CPS website and updated daily.





STEU Continued

STEU works closely with the City of Calgary Roads department to assess intersections and strategies to decrease the risk of collisions. This is discussed at a monthly meeting called “Cops & Ops” where strategies may include increased signage, road design, speed reduction or increased communication through media channels.

The STEU unit incorporates a system called Traffic Service Requests (TSR's). This program enables community members to submit a request electronically to the Traffic Section providing immediate input on road safety issues. These TSR's are reviewed by an intake officer and resources are deployed to resolve the issue. This empowers citizens to take responsibility for safety on their own roads and allows the police to respond in a focused manner, targeting real community concerns that provide the value and impact that is expected from the public.

The Calgary Police Service is committed to improving road safety in all aspects. We will continue to explore new ideas, strategies and technology to make safer roads a reality for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration for this prestigious award.

Respectfully,
Dean LaGrange, Inspector
Calgary Police Service, Traffic Section

