



To Canadian Council of Motor Safety Administrators

From Inspector Stephen Grant
De Operations Officer
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RCMP

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Nonsensitive
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Subject RE: Canadian Council of Motor Safety Administrators Police Partnership Award

I respectfully submit the following program, for this prestigious award, and identify Corporal Drew TAYLOR as our candidate for receipt of this honor.

Background:

The Queen Elizabeth Highway (QE 2) is the largest and busiest highway in the Province of Alberta. It maintains a volume of over 80,000 vehicles along it's route between Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta at any given moment. Unfortunately, annually there are over 100 fatalities recorded along it's length and over a thousand serious injuries.

The QE2 is also subject to rapid changes in weather patterns and experiences severe and often unexpected storms. Not infrequently, this has led to very large collisions involving dozens of vehicles and multiple casualties which can and have in the past, overwhelmed local traffic services units.

On March 21st, 2013, an unexpected, severe snow storm blew across a 20 km section of the highway near Millet, Alberta. Within twenty minutes over 70 transport trucks and other vehicles had collided. There were numerous injuries, including a near fatality. While many agencies were pulled into the scene, the lack of an effective coordinated effort, delayed emergency services responses and slowed progress at the scene.

In response to this issue, all the QE 2 Traffic Services Units were placed under an Integrated Command Structure. What was then required was an effective, multi agency response plan that would ensure rapid and effective deployment of many resources.

Corporal Drew TAYLOR is the Commander of the Innisfail Integrated Traffic Unit. Cpl. TAYLOR has significant experience and training in Emergency Management, and in a short time, developed a broad network with other traffic professionals in his area. Cpl. Taylor was tasked with developing an interactive training model in which a broad variety of agencies could be brought together to work and problem solve through

a serious of emerging and rapidly expanding traffic collisions. Cpl. TAYLOR developed a truly remarkable project. Some 70 persons, police, fire departments, ambulance services, hazzardous waste experts, tow truck operators, provincial transportation resources, media, schools and others were brought together to work through three interactive table top/video presentations. The joint problem solving process mirrored real life situations, and truly challenged all the participants. The scenarios spanned a dangerous chemical spill, evacuations of public structures, an injuries to school children. Events unfolded in real time, and decisions had to be made quickly and decisively. It required different agencies to work together, share their knowledge and expertise. Certainly relationships were enhanced as people came to better appreciate just how many government and public resources are engaged in a large collision event.

The success of this venture was demonstrated only three days later when many of the same people who were brought together during a real multi vehicle collision which presented many of the same challenges introduced during the training.

The Training has now been incorporated into the policy and planning of our Division's Traffic Service. The program is in both written and video format and can easily be shared with any other police service. It is, in my experience, the best model of it's kind.

Our multi-agency, integrated approach to multiple collisions should ensure that all agencies better understand their roles and how to cordinate their response. The consequences will be a more effective response which mitigates risk to emergency responders and hopefully aids in dealing with casualties.

Submitted by:

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