

Motorists urged to slow down and stay in control

OPP urge motorists to slow down and stay in control of their vehicle when driving in inclement weather and on poor road conditions.

This reminder comes after OPP responded to 29 motor vehicle collisions between noon on Sunday, January 10th and 5 p.m. on Monday, January 11th; many of which were weather related. There were no injuries reported.

Driving too fast for road conditions is the number one cause of winter collisions. Allow yourself extra time to get to and from your destination. If the weather is uncertain, check the forecast before heading out and monitor the media outlets for any updates.

Visit the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario web site for road conditions at www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/traveller/conditions or call toll-free 1-800-268-4686. You can also call 5-1-1 (The Traveller's Road Information Line).

Road Closures: Driving on a closed road is an offence under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA - Sec. 134(3)) which may carry a total fine of \$110. plus, three demerit points. The consequences however can be much worse if you are involved in a collision or are stranded in a whiteout. Road closures often extend past the end of a storm in order to give road maintenance crews sufficient time to clear the snow and treat the road surface. Road closures are inconvenient and they are frustrating, however, roads are closed with the best intentions to keeping motorists and emergency personnel safe.

Vehicle Lights: Motorists must remember to activate their vehicle's headlights manually to ensure the taillights come on. This is especially important when driving in inclement weather or low-light conditions. Don't risk being rear-ended. See and be seen!