



THUNDER BAY OPP – SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

OPP CONDUCTS MOVE OVER CAMPAIGN OVER CIVIC DAY LONG WEEKEND (AUGUST 3-6, 2018)

With the first half of the year behind them, the OPP has laid 932 Move Over charges so far this year against drivers who failed to slow down and move over when approaching an emergency vehicle with its lights flashing.

While the year-to-date number sets the stage for a potentially lower number of charges compared to the past few years, it is an important law that the OPP sees far too many drivers continue to ignore at the expense of first responder safety.

OPP Move Over Charges [Highway Traffic Act Section 159 (2)(3)], last five years:

Year # of charges

2014 - 1,593

2015 - 2,059

2016 - 2,468

2017 - 2,137

2018 - 932 (Jan. 1 - mid-June)

"Any driver who has had to pull over to the roadside of a busy highway or road knows how unnerving and unsafe it feels to see traffic clipping by at close proximity. We need all drivers to be mindful of this when they see police, other emergency personnel and tow truck drivers on the roadside carrying out their public safety duties. Slowing down and moving over for emergency vehicles if safe to do so will help reduce the number of these preventable collisions and allow those who provide help at the roadside to do their jobs safely."

- OPP Deputy Commissioner Brad Blair, Provincial Commander of Traffic Safety and Operational Support.



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

"With the upcoming long weekend, there will be lots of people travelling throughout this great province. Let's all do our part to ensure that we arrive safe. When you see a stopped tow truck or emergency vehicle with its lights flashing, move over and give them the room they need to do their job. It's not only the right thing to do, it's the law. This way we can all enjoy the long weekend with our family and friends."

- Michael Tibollo, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services

Quick Facts:

In 2017, there were six (6) incidents in which an OPP vehicle was stopped/parked on the roadside and was struck from behind while its emergency lights were activated.

The law carries a \$400 to \$2,000 fine, plus three demerit points upon conviction.

Subsequent offences (within five years) carry a \$1,000 to \$4,000 fine, possible jail time up to six months and possible suspension of your driver's licence for up to two years.

Drivers are reminded that the law was amended in 2015 to include tow trucks parked on the roadside with their amber lights flashing.

OPP REPORT MULTIPLE LONG WEEKEND ROAD DEATHS, FINAL RESULTS FOR "MOVE OVER" CAMPAIGN, OTHER TRAFFIC CHARGES

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) dealt with a tragic Civic Day Long Weekend with two children among the six people who died on OPP-patrolled roads.

The weekend marked the highest number of fatal road incidents since the 2011 August long weekend.

A three-year-old girl died after being struck by a pick-up truck in Lambton County.

A six-year-old girl was killed after the passenger vehicle in which she was travelling was involved in a collision with a transport truck in Caledon.

A 22-year-old man died following a collision between his motorcycle and a passenger vehicle on Highway 427 in southern Ontario.

A second motorcyclist, a 52-year-old man was killed when the motorcycle he was driving lost control near Killaloe.



A 28-year-old man succumbed to his injuries following a single vehicle crash on the shoulder of Highway 400 in Tay Township.

A 64-year-old man died in southern Ontario after driving the wrong way (southbound) on Highway 404 resulted in a head-on collision with a northbound vehicle. The driver of the northbound vehicle received serious injuries in the crash.

With its data now finalized, the OPP laid 511 Move Over charges during its four-day Move Over campaign. There were 413 charges during the 2017 campaign and 471 charges the previous year (2016).

The OPP laid 8,566 traffic-related charges over the weekend. A total of 5,070 charges were for speeding, with officers laying an additional 136 street racing/stunt driving charges against motorists who were caught driving more than 50 kilometres per hour over the posted speed limit.

By comparison, the 2017 Civic Day Long Weekend resulted in 8,781 charges, 5,558 of which were speeding offences and 127 of which were street racing/stunt driving offences. The 2016 campaign ended with 9,417 charges. Speeding accounted for 5,529 of the charges and 99 charges were laid for street racing/stunt driving offences.

POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Sunday, September 30, 2018

On September 24, 1998 the Government of Canada officially proclaimed the last Sunday of September of every year as Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day. This National Memorial Day gives Canadians an opportunity each year to formally express appreciation for the dedication of police and peace officers, which made the ultimate tragic sacrifice to keep our communities safe.

In 1978 the first Memorial honoured 14 officers. In 2017 the names of over 850 members were engraved on the Honour Roll. The glass panels provide a lasting tribute to our heroes, and ensure that future generations are reminded of the supreme sacrifices of our fallen members. The importance of their sacrifice is overwhelming.

The Memorial Service is held every year to keep the memory of the men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty alive, and to ensure that the magnitude of their sacrifice will never be forgotten.



GET PREPARED FOR STUDENTS HEADING BACK TO SCHOOL

Once again it is time for students to head back to school and for motorists to be on the lookout for school buses and students. The Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to remind everyone that school buses will be on area roadways and highways beginning Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

As school doors open, traffic gets a little heavier on our streets. People are back from holidays, school buses and public transit are on regular routes, and more people are walking, cycling or driving to school.

To help with the transition and share the roads safely, here are some safety tips. Help everyone stay safe this school year!

Observe School Zone Speeds

Although you should always obey posted speed limits, it is especially important during the school year. Children crossing the road on their way to and from school can easily get distracted and step into harm's way. Slowing down and being vigilant is crucial to keeping kids safe. Children are often out throughout the day at recess, lunch, and for certain classes, so it's important to drive slowly throughout the day.

Obey the Crossing Guard

A crossing guard is there to keep children safe. If you come up to a set of lights, and the light turns green, but the crossing guard still says stop, follow his/her direction and not the traffic light. There might be a child still crossing the street that you can't see.

Watch for Darting Children

Kids are small and easily distracted, and for drivers, this can create dangerous situations on the roads. Be vigilant and alert behind the wheel. You never know when a small child might step out from between parked cars or off a sidewalk. Your fast reflexes might be needed to prevent an accident.

School Buses

Most mishaps take place outside the bus. Make sure children don't arrive too early at the bus stop where they can wander or get into mischief. Make sure children wait well away from the road and stay back until the school bus makes a full stop and the doors open. Explain that they must walk at least three metres (10 feet) away when crossing in front of the bus so the driver can see them.

When driving your car near a school bus please note that extra caution is needed. Do not pass a school bus when the signal lights are flashing, as children are often crossing the road at that time, and drive slowly as a general precaution.



The following information is useful for school bus passengers and their parents.

Rules for getting on the bus safely:

- Be at the bus stop on time. Never run to or from the bus.
- Wait at the designated stop in a safe place well back from the side of the road.
- Remember the danger zone around the bus. The danger zone is anywhere close enough to touch the bus. The bus driver cannot see you when you are in the danger zone.
- If you cross the street to get on the bus: when the bus comes, wait until it has come to a complete stop. The bus driver will make sure all the traffic stops. The stop arm will be out and the red lights will be flashing. Watch the driver. When the driver knows it is safe, he or she will signal you to cross, but watch for traffic yourself. Walk, don't run.
- Hold the hand rail as you get on the bus. Don't push or shove.

Rules for on the bus:

- Take your seat as quickly as possible and sit properly, facing forward at all times.
- Hold bags and parcels in your lap. Do not put your feet into the aisle: someone might trip.
- Keep your head, arms and everything inside the bus. Don't throw anything out the windows or around in the bus.
- Talk quietly. The driver must concentrate to drive the bus safely.
- Save snacks for snack time at school or for when you get home. They may spill or you may choke if the bus goes over a big bump.
- No fighting, shouting or playing in or around the bus.
- Always follow the bus driver's instructions.

Rules for leaving the bus safely:

- When you leave the bus, hold the handrail and step away from the bus.
- To cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead at least 10 giant steps (three metres). Cross only when the driver gives a signal. Cross the street in single file.
- If you drop something near the bus, don't pick it up. Tell the driver or another adult first.
- If everyone is getting off the bus, the people at the front leave first. Do not push.
- Be familiar with the bus driver's rules for emergencies.

This safety tip was prepared by Public Safety Canada in collaboration with the Canada Safety Council.



DO NOT LET A DISTRACTION RUIN YOUR LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND

During the Labour Day Long Weekend (August 31 – September 3, 2018) officers from the Thunder Bay Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) will be participating in the OPP Distracted Driving Campaign. Although officers patrol highways all year and look for distracted driving, this campaign is used to highlight the issue in our communities.

Distracted driving refers to all forms of distracted or inattentive driving such as adjusting a vehicle's entertainment, GPS unit, or stereo, eating and drinking, using a hand-held device, self-grooming or tending to children in the backseat, etc. Drivers need to remember that the true danger to public safety lies in the distraction, not the device.

WHAT COUNTS AS DISTRACTED DRIVING

When you aren't focused on the road, things can happen fast.

Using your phone to talk, text, check maps or choose a playlist while you're behind the wheel all count as distracted driving – and they put you and others at risk.

Other activities like eating, reading or typing a destination into a GPS are also dangerous when you're behind the wheel.

It doesn't matter if you're on a highway or stopped at a red light – distracted driving could cost you.

Distracted driving statistics

In Ontario, deaths from collisions caused by distracted driving have doubled since 2000.

Ontario data on collisions from 2013 show:

- one person is injured in a distracted-driving collision every half hour
- a driver using a phone is four times more likely to crash than a driver focusing on the road



Penalties for distracted driving

The easiest way to avoid penalties for distracted driving is to not use a hand-held device when you're behind the wheel.

It's against the law to use hand-held communication (e.g. your phone) and electronic entertainment devices (e.g. DVD player, e-reader) while driving.

In fact, simply holding a phone or other device while driving is against the law.

You can use:

- a hands-free device (e.g. Bluetooth) but only to turn it on and off
- a mounted device (e.g. phone, GPS) as long as it is secure – not moving around while driving

If convicted, the penalty you face depends on the kind of licence you hold and how long you've been driving.

Drivers with A to G licences

If you have an A, B, C, D, E, F and/or G licence, you'll face bigger penalties when convicted of distracted driving:

- a fine of \$490, if settled out of court (includes a victim surcharge and the court fee)
- a fine of up to \$1,000 if a summons is received or if you fight the ticket in court and lose
- three demerit points

Novice drivers

If you hold a G1, G2, M1 or M2 licence, and are convicted of distracted driving, you'll face the same fines as drivers with A to G licences. But you won't receive any demerit points.

Instead of demerit points you'll face:

- a 30-day licence suspension for a first conviction
- a 90-day licence suspension for a second conviction
- cancellation of your licence and removal from the Graduated Licensing System (GLS) for a third conviction, to get your licence back you'd have to redo the GLS program



Careless driving

You could face more charges – for careless driving – if you endanger other people because of any kind of distraction. This includes distraction caused by both hand-held (e.g., phone) or hands-free (e.g., Bluetooth) devices.

If convicted of careless driving, you may receive:

- six demerit points
- fines up to \$2,000 and/or
- a jail term of six months
- a licence suspension of up to two years

You could even be charged with dangerous driving – a criminal offence that carries heavier penalties, including jail terms of up to 10 years for causing bodily harm or up to 14 years for causing death.

Tips to avoid distracted driving

Use any of these tips to avoid distracted driving and its penalties:

- turn off your phone or switch it to silent mode before you get in the car, put it in the glove compartment (lock it, if you have to) or in a bag on the back seat
- before you leave the house, record an outgoing message that tells callers you're driving and you'll get back to them when you're off the road, some apps can block incoming calls and texts, or send automatic replies to people trying to call or text you
- ask a passenger to take a call or respond to a text for you, if you must respond, or have to make a call or send a text, carefully pull over to a safe area
- silence notifications that tempt you to check your phone

Calling 911

In an emergency, you can use your phone to call 911, but be sure to pull off the road to a safe area to make the call.

The preceding information is provided by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation



Ontario Provincial Police

Newsletter

CRIME STOPPERS

Crime Stoppers look forward to continuing to work with the community on Crime Prevention initiatives. Keep in mind that if you have any information about any crime, we ask that you contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800- 222- TIPS or 623-TIPS or submit a web tip at www.tipsubmit.com. Remember your identity will remain anonymous and you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$2,000.00 and you will never have to testify in court.



September is.....

World Suicide Prevention Day

World Alzheimer's Day

October is.....

Cyber Security Awareness Month

National Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month

Car Safety Month

Women's History Month

International Day of Older Persons

National Safe Communities Day

Mental Illness Awareness Week

World Mental Health Day

If there are other topics you would like addressed in this newsletter or have some ideas, please do not hesitate to call me.

P/C Diana Cole

Thunder Bay OPP Community Safety Officer

807-939-2133