## Foothills County RCMP urges motorists to use caution on icy roads and know what to do after a winter collision

Foothills County, Alta. – With winter weather creating slick and unpredictable road conditions, the High River RCMP is reminding drivers to adjust their habits and be prepared for emergencies. Snow, freezing rain, and black ice can significantly increase stopping distances and reduce vehicle control, leading to collisions if drivers are not cautious.

Safe driving tips for icy and snowy roads:

- Reduce your driving speed, as it will give you more time to react and help maintain traction.
- Increase your following distance and leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle ahead, as stopping on ice takes much longer.
- Avoid sudden movements. Accelerate, brake, and steer gently to prevent skidding.
- Install winter tires ahead of winter road conditions. Proper winter-rated tires greatly improve grip on icy surfaces.
- Clear all windows and lights before heading out on the road to ensure maximum visibility before driving.
- Always keep your eye open for black ice. Be particularly careful on bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas where ice forms first.

If you find yourself in a collision or sliding incident:

- Stay calm and avoid abrupt movements. If your vehicle is still drivable, carefully move it to a safe location away from traffic.
- Turn on hazard lights to alert other drivers.
- Check for injuries to yourself, passengers, and anyone involved.
- Call 911 if there are injuries, significant damage, or the roadway is blocked.
- If it's a minor collision with no injuries and vehicles are movable, pull to the side of the road to avoid secondary crashes.
- Remain in your vehicle if conditions are hazardous or if leaving could put you in danger from passing traffic.
- Document the incident by exchanging information with the other driver and taking photos if it is safe to do so.

For more seasonal safety advice, follow us on Facebook @RCMPinAlberta and on X @RCMPAlberta.

As always, report any suspicious activity to your local RCMP Detachment, 24/7:

- Turner Valley RCMP 403-933-4262
- High River RCMP 403-652-2356
- Okotoks RCMP 403-938-4202

Or reach out to us by calling 310-RCMP (7267) for non emergency complaints

Stay safe and keep any eye out for one another.

