

SafetyCanada

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Installing speed cameras? Not so fast!



Every few years, it seems the issue of photo radar re-surfaces in the media, with a push being made by politicians to introduce the speed-deterrent technology into a new area. The speed detectors are currently in use primarily in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec and were previously used in various areas of Ontario and British Columbia.

The principle behind photo radar is fairly simple: a camera is set up, typically in areas where excessive speed has traditionally been an issue, and is programmed to take a photo of any vehicle exceeding a specific speed threshold.

In the past, several municipalities have made the mistake of treating photo radar as an after-the-fact deterrent, imposing a fine on speeding drivers in the hopes that a monetary penalty would cause a change in behaviour the next time. Photo radar is a positive safety measure that can be very beneficial when used correctly. But for this to happen, there needs to be a shift in the way municipalities and governments use the technology.

Photo radar should be used as a preventative measure first. Standard signage should be clearly visible as drivers approach any area or intersection that may be monitored. The goal should be to prevent violations rather than to catch offenders.

From a safety perspective, the roads are made safer when road users are obeying speed limits. And while there's no substitute for strong police visibility, the reality is that police officers can't be everywhere all the time.

Fewer drivers will be inclined to break the law if they believe they could be caught, which is why implementing photo radar properly is imperative. It's not enough to stand by as the law is broken and rake in the proceeds.

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President's Perspective

Much has been made of the rapid expansion of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV, more commonly known as drone) industry in Canada. The flying machines often come equipped with cameras and vary wildly in weight, with some models weighing less than 2 kg up to more than 35 kg.

As they become more prevalent in society, though, we're also faced with additional safety issues that we need to address as a society. The Government of Canada has established some basic rules surrounding their use, including proper areas in which UAVs should be flown, but as of now these rules are more like guidelines in nature — unenforceable and lacking.

Protecting the airspace around airports, especially, is critical. Although UAVs are much smaller than airplanes, a collision could cause problems for a pilot. And should the UAV get sucked into the engine, it could be a significant event.

The problem has seen enough pushback in the United States that there is now a registration requirement for UAV owners, old and new. If it's enough of an issue in the USA, shouldn't it be treated with the same importance and urgency up here?

The number of UAVs flying in Canadian skies continues to increase. They can be very useful, too — it's not all drone, doom and gloom! Used correctly and in the proper context, UAVs can be invaluable tools for taking photos at angles that might not otherwise be possible, helpful to law enforcement, search and rescue and accident investigators and other. They also can be a lot of fun to fly around.

Fun shouldn't take priority over safety, though. The two can co-exist, and it's as much on the owner or operator to use them responsibly, as it is on the government to strengthen legislation surrounding this issue.

For more information about recommended use of UAVs, please visit Transport Canada's website at <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/civilaviation/standards/general-recavi-uav-2265.htm>

Safety, it's an attitude!

Jack Smith, President



Looking Ahead

National Farm Safety Week marked the beginning of our campaign season for 2016, running from March 14 — 20. This year's campaign focused on best practices to keep children safe from occupational hazards on the farm including machine runovers, rollovers and being smothered in grain bins.

The campaign season continues in May with two campaigns. Firstly, **National Summer Safety Week** is being held from May 1 — 7, and the primary focus this year will be drowning prevention. According to the Lifesaving Society of Canada, 66 per cent of drownings occur between May and September, with 34 per cent of those occurring in July and August. The campaign therefore falls at a crucial time to remind Canadians about the importance of taking steps to reduce the risks.

The next campaign will follow shortly, as **National Road Safety Week** will be taking place from May 17 — 23. This year, the Canada Safety Council will be taking a look at musculoskeletal diseases and the impact they have on drivers. Studies have shown that drivers with musculoskeletal disorders and arthritis are at higher risk for car crashes.

Stretch muscles, not limits!

Spring means the sun starts making a more steady reappearance and makes it a lot more tolerable to go outside and kick around a soccer ball, swing a baseball bat or throw around a football.

And while they all have their own unique sets of injury risks that aren't necessarily apparent, one of the biggest favours you can do yourself is to stretch before engaging in any kind of physical activity.

Flexibility exercises are a great way to loosen up. Even a few minutes of making yourself limber will drastically reduce your chances of pulling or straining a muscle. Increased blood circulation, higher energy and more muscle coordination also all factor in as key benefits to stretching.

Equally important is making your stretches sport-specific.

For instance, a soccer player is more vulnerable to straining a hamstring than a football player. Likewise, a baseball player is more likely to injure their shoulder or strain a muscle in their arm than a soccer player. Focusing on specific muscle groups will help reduce the risk of injury even more.

Ultimately, it's important to remember that stretching reduces the risks, but it doesn't eliminate them entirely. Repetitive strain injuries and overuse of muscles can still occur.

Set reasonable time limitations to your activities to ensure that you're able to enjoy them regularly, continually and without being interrupted by injury.





The Future Is Now: New Tech in Cars

Technological advances have made a significant difference in the automotive industry from the moment the first car was released. Innovations including air bags, seat belts and anti-lock braking have all contributed to making it much safer to drive today than it was back when cars were first introduced.

And still, progress marches on. New technologies are being developed and refined daily, aiming to prevent collisions before they even happen.

There's no replacement for safe, conscientious and defensive driving — but these advanced safety features can certainly help to mitigate any possible dangers.

- Forward-Collision Warning is a system that uses radar, cameras or lasers to see your vehicle's position in relation to others. If it is detected that a driver is moving too quickly toward another vehicle, an alert sounds in the vehicle, giving the driver time to react.
- Automatic Emergency Braking often goes hand-in-hand with Forward-Collision Warning. In the event that a driver is approaching another vehicle too quickly, brakes are automatically applied if the driver does not react quickly enough. While it won't always

stop a collision entirely, it will lessen the damage and velocity at which a collision may occur.

- Backup cameras are becoming more and more prevalent in newer vehicles. As the name implies, a camera is installed at the back of the vehicle, showing the driver what is happening behind them on a console screen. Its use shouldn't replace the physical act of turning around to look behind the vehicle, but it's certainly useful in the right circumstances.
- Blind spot warning technology makes highway driving much more safe, as sensors on the side of the vehicle will alert a driver if there is another vehicle in their blind spot.

New technologies make driving a lot safer when used in conjunction with safe driving techniques. It's important not to treat these innovations as replacements for proper driving, or to develop bad habits that are corrected through these technologies. They should be treated as tools, rather than relied upon at all times.

Still, if you're looking at a new car, ask about these safety features. They could make the difference between a collision and a near miss.

Stay Safe on Social Media

(NC) Since the dawn of the internet, there have been scammers looking to take advantage of personal information online.

With the popularity of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other new social sharing sites, it is important to be aware of how much information we share, and with whom.

With so much personal information out there, scammers can easily get hold of your money or steal your identity.

Canadians lose millions of dollars every year from these kinds of vicious attacks, so be on the lookout at all times.

Here are five ways to avoid becoming victim to social media scams:

1. Regulate your privacy settings. Managing your settings wisely can help avoid any unwanted attention to your social media pages. Adjust your settings to select who can access your personal information, photos and posts.
2. Don't overshare. While social media encourages the sharing of personal information, avoid revealing too many personal details. Scammers can use these to track down information that allows them to steal your identity. Remember, just because you post something in a private group, it doesn't mean that someone won't take a screen shot and share it.



3. Be careful where you click. There are many attention-grabbing links, photos and articles that pop-up, but don't click on just anything. While these sites may look legitimate, they can contain programs that attempt to take your contact information and share it.

4. Your password is your friend. Create strong passwords and ensure that they are unique and challenging so scammers will not be able to guess them. Make it a habit to change your passwords regularly and use different ones for different sites.

5. Be alert and cautious. Be vigilant about who you communicate with online and how you verify their identity. Be extra cautious when they ask you to do something. Never click on suspicious links, and never share personal or financial information unless you can absolutely trust the person on the other end, and verify that they are who they say they are.

More information is available at www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/fraud, or you can phone the Competition Bureau directly at 1-800-348-5358.

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre also has a helpful website: www.antifraudcentre.ca, and can be reached at 1-888-495-8501 online.

Happy browsing!

When Disaster Strikes, Be Prepared!

(NC) Canadians face a number of natural hazards which can vary from region to region. Knowing what can happen in your area is an important first step in getting prepared, and this can be as simple as making your own emergency kit and creating a family preparedness plan.

The Government of Canada's Emergency Preparedness Week is May 1 to 7. It's the perfect time to take a few simple steps to get better prepared for any kind of crisis:

- Know the risks in your area – Learn about what could happen in your region, such as floods, tornadoes, or earthquakes. Public Safety Canada has information on preparing for other hazards and emergencies.
- Make a plan – Every household needs an emergency plan. A plan will help you and your family know what to do, where to meet, and how to get in touch if disaster strikes.
- Get an emergency kit – During an emergency, you



may need to get by without power or running water. Basic supplies, such as non-perishable food, a flashlight, batteries, and a radio are a good idea.

- Stay informed –Keep up to date on current conditions or impending events, such as weather advisories. In so doing, you can take the necessary steps to reduce the impact of these events on you and your family.
- Take steps to mitigate the risks – Once you know the risks in your region, you may be able to take steps to mitigate the impact of disasters. For instance, if you live in a flood-prone area, consider getting backup power for a sump pump in your home.
- If you live in a fire-prone region, clear brush from a distance of 30-50 metres or more around your home. These steps may prevent thousands of dollars in damage, not to mention major inconveniences and possible risks to your health and safety.

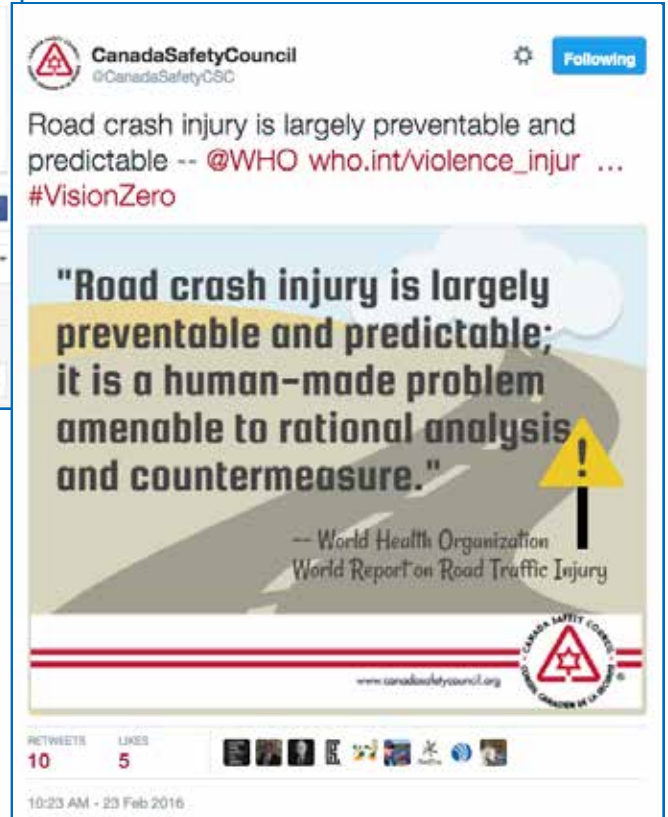
More information is available at www.getprepared.ca.



Safety Training Online

*Want to go back to school without leaving home?
Visit www.canadasafetycouncil.org/training
to sign up for online safety training! Courses include OH&S topics,
defensive driving, babysitters training, and home alone safety.*

Popular on Social Media



Do you have a safety story, tip or pet-peeve to share?
 Email media@safety-council.org, tweet us @CanadaSafetyCSC or send us a post or a message on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/canada.safety>.



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