

Police sign rotational towing deal with firms

Halton Police has signed a rotational towing agreement with several companies in the region.

The agreement came as a result of a successful year-long pilot project that ended Sept. 1. The goal of the project was to create a system where officers could arrange to have vehicles involved in collisions towed by a reputable company.

The companies were required to complete applications and undergo a screening process before being approved as a rotational tow company. The companies are restricted in the maximum rate they can charge. The rates have been approved by both the Halton Regional Police Service and Halton Regional Police Services Board.

Anyone involved in a collision who needs their vehicle towed, as long as the police don't need to secure it for further investigation, will have the choice of selecting their own tow company or ask the officer to arrange for an approved rotational towing company.

The rotational companies have to provide a rate list of tow charges if requested by the owner of the vehicle.

Charges of companies not on the list aren't governed by the Halton Re-

SATURDAY 8 am to 3 pm.

gional Police Towing Agreement.

Halton Police encourages drivers to plan ahead and be prepared in the event they become involved in a collision or a mechanical breakdown. They recommend drivers:

 Contact your insurance company. Many insurance companies now offer roadside assistance and have arranged for their own contracted towing services. In most cases insurance companies provide their clients with a toll free 1-800 number to call and arrange for a tow truck and other services.

• If you subscribe to a roadside assistance program, ensure you have the number to access the assistance in your vehicle's glove box.

• Drivers should not be intimidated by aggressive solicitation by tow truck drivers at the roadside. If you have already arranged for your own tow you are not obliged to use the services of another tow truck just because they happen to be on the scene.

• If you are within the Halton Region and have no pre-planned towing option and require towing you can contact the Halton Regional Police Service Communications Bureau at 905-825-4777 and arrange for a Rotational tow.

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