

# HALTON POLICE VEHICLES HAD 126 COLLISIONS IN 2018

## 48 OF THESE COLLISIONS CLASSIFIED AS PREVENTABLE

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Halton police had a total of 126 vehicle collisions in 2018, the same number reported in 2017.

This was the finding of a summary report on police vehicle collisions, which was presented during the March 28 meeting of the Halton Regional Police Services Board.

The report noted that these 126 collisions resulted in \$323,806 in damage costs and five police vehicles being completely written off.

These figures are remarkably similar to the figures from 2017, which also saw 126 police vehicle collisions, damage costs of \$320,500 and five vehicle write offs.

Fewer collisions were reported in the years prior to 2017 with 121 police vehicle collisions in 2016 resulting in four write offs and \$283,074 in damage costs.

In 2015 there were 99 police vehicle collisions resulting in two write offs and \$168,625 in damage costs.

The 2018 report classified 48 of the 126 collisions

as preventable, which is an improvement over the 73 preventable collisions in 2017, the 66 preventable collisions in 2016 and the 64 preventable collisions in 2015.

Last year saw 50 collisions classified as nonpreventable and 28 collisions where collision damage to a police vehicle was found, but it is unclear when or how it happened.

The vast majority of the 2018 preventable collisions (40) resulted from an officer "failing to observe clearances," which means the officer struck a stationary object like a curb, a light standard or parked vehicle.

Officers had fewer collisions in 2018 resulting from:

- an officer following too close (one incident in 2018 compared to nine in 2017)
- an officer travelling to fast for conditions (one incident in 2018 compared to five in 2017)
- an officer failing to yield (one incident in 2018 compared to five in 2017)
- an officer improperly backing up (one incident in 2018 compared to six in 2017).

Halton police Chief Stephen Tanner has previously said there is remedial training for officers who are involved in more than one preventable collision.

He has also pointed out



Reg Vertolli photo

The number of Halton police vehicle collisions in 2018 remains unchanged from the previous year at 126.

police vehicles are driven extensively throughout the year.

In 2018 Tanner said Halton police vehicles travelled a total of 7.4 million kilometres, which is slightly less than the 7.7 million kilometres Halton police vehicles travelled in 2017.

The report noted patrol vehicles, which represent the majority of the police fleet, are driven 24-7 and average approximately 50,000 km per year.

The report also pointed out that of the 126 collisions reported last year, 29 per cent did not incur repair

costs because either the damage was deemed to minor or the vehicle was at the end of its life cycle and deemed not cost effective to repair.

The report also noted that in 2018 there were 31 incidents involving non-collision related damage to service vehicles with damages totalling \$9,986.

Of those incidents 32 per cent were minor and did not require repair. Thirteen of these incidents involved damage to the vehicle's windshields/glass while 13 incidents involved body/engine/inte-

rior/exterior damage.

One incident involved damage caused by a prisoner.

This noncollision related damage was up from 28 incidents reported in 2017, which resulted in total damage costs of \$15,435.

It was down from the 2016 figures, which saw 48 incidents and damage

costs of \$14,211.

There were 62 incidents of noncollision vehicle damage reported in 2015 resulting in damage costs of \$22,436.

Halton police said they will continue to review all preventable collisions in an effort to identify causes, trends and strategies to improve safety.

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