

Halton police vehicle collisions up in 2017

126 service vehicle collisions reported in 2017

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Halton police vehicle collisions were up in 2017 and so was the average damage cost for those collisions.

These were among the findings of a summary report on police vehicle collisions, which was discussed during a recent meeting of the Halton Regional Police Service Board.

The report found there were 126 service vehicle collisions in 2017 with damage costs totalling \$320,500.

This figure includes five police vehicles, which were complete write offs.

These numbers represent a slight increase over 2016's 121 collisions,



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Halton police vehicle collisions were up in 2017.

which resulted in four vehicles being written off and a damage total of \$283,074.

The report classified 73 of these 126 collisions as preventable, which is an increase over the 66 preventable collisions in 2016.

The majority of these preventable collisions (39) resulted from an officer "failing to observe clearances," which means the officer struck a stationary

object like a curb, light standard or parked vehicle.

There was also an increase in collisions caused as a result of failing to yield with five incidents reported in 2017, compared to one incident in 2016.

Police point out the 2017 failure to yield numbers are considerably lower than in 2014, which saw 12 incidents in this category.

Halton police Chief Ste-

phen Tanner said there is remedial training for officers who are involved in more than one preventable collision.

He also pointed out police vehicles are driven extensively throughout the year.

In 2017 Tanner said Halton police vehicles travelled a total of 7.7 million kilometres, which represents a four per cent increase compared to 2016.

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.

Police also pointed out that of the 126 collisions reported last year, 28 per cent did not incur repair costs as either the damage was deemed too 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 2017 there were 28 incidents involving non-collision related damage to service vehicles with damages totalling \$15,435.

Of those incidents 21 per cent were minor and did not require repair.

Eleven of these incidents involved damage to the vehicle's windshields/

glass while 13 incidents involved body/engine/interior/exterior damage.

Four incidents involved damage caused by prisoners.

This non-collision related damage was down from 48 incidents reported in 2016, which resulted in total damage costs of \$14,211.



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