

Flashing lights mean pull over

What do you do when you see the red and blue lights in your rear view mirror?

Most drivers know that they should immediately pull to the nearest shoulder of the road and come to a safe stop. Unfortunately, traffic officers in Milton and Halton Hills have, on occasion, encountered drivers who don't want to stop for police. Our experience is that these drivers are usually prohibited from driving, uninsured, intoxicated, or are committing some other offence they fear being caught for. In rare cases, some drivers simply don't know what to do.

Section 216 of the Highway Traffic Act authorizes a police officer to stop a motor vehicle and places an obligation on the driver to "immediately come to a safe stop." Roadways are hazardous at the best of times and officers who stop vehicles are trained to do so in as safe a location as possible. When drivers don't stop immediately, or decide to drive into an unexpected location, it causes the officer to become increasingly concerned.

Traffic stops are considered one of the most dangerous activities for police because the risks are always unknown. We don't know who's in the vehicle until we stop it. Are they armed? Are there drugs in the car? Are they coming from the scene of a crime? Drivers can help increase their safety and ours by immediately pulling to the nearest shoulder of the road and coming to a complete stop. If the officer wants you to move to another location, they will let you know.

Those drivers who consider not stopping should remind themselves that the consequences for



with SGT. DEREK DAVIS

Police beat

doing so are severe. Under the Highway Traffic Act, failing to stop for police can result in a fine of up to \$10,000, a licence suspension or even imprisonment. In one recent example, a driver fled after being stopped for speeding. Police went to visit him later, and instead of just a speeding ticket he now faces an upcoming court date on several charges.

At the extreme end of the not-stopping scale is when an offending driver forces police to enter into a suspect apprehension pursuit. If given the choice, officers would choose to not participate in one, however there are times when we must. In those circumstances, public safety is always the paramount consideration. Fleeing drivers needlessly risk the lives of the public and the police trying to stop them. As a result, they reap the most serious consequences.

A driver who causes a pursuit can expect to be arrested and charged both criminally and under the Highway Traffic Act. A conviction carries with it a fine of up to \$25,000, both provincial and criminal driving prohibitions and the high probability of sharing a room in Maplehurst. If they hurt or injure someone else as a result of their choice to flee, the penalties are even harsher.

The punishment for not stopping or fleeing is often more severe than for whatever reason they feared being stopped for in the first place. If you know of a driver who failed to stop for police or caused a pursuit, they pose a danger to all other drivers on the road. They can be reported to police at (905) 878-5511 or anonymously through Crime Stoppers.

Sgt. Derek Davis is the supervisor of the 1 District Response Unit, focusing on traffic enforcement within the communities of Halton Hills and Milton.

Shop break-in attempted

Halton Regional Police are investigating an attempted break-in to a mechanic shop on Main Street.

Shortly after 7 p.m. October 21, unknown suspects attempted to force open a door to Miltowne Collision, 751 Main St. E.

The suspects were unsuccessful at gaining entry to the premise and nothing was stolen. Only the door was damaged.

The total value of the damage



to the door wasn't yet known at press time.

If you have any information that leads to an arrest in this or any other

matter, you may be eligible for a cash reward.

You'll never have to give your name or testify in court.

Crime Stoppers of Halton doesn't subscribe to the call display phone feature.

Call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or visit www.haltoncrimestoppers.com.

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