

Driving safety tips that can come in handy for rural motorists

3/28/2013 1:54:42 PM

EXTRACT

Naturally, the best way in which to avoid any kind of moving violation is straightforward: follow the rules of the road. But in those instances where people make mistakes, there are certain strategies that can reduce the likelihood of being cited for speeding.

ARTICLE CONTENT

Whether it's due to being late for work or not fully appreciating how fast one is going, just about everyone has driven north of the posted speed limit at some point in their driving career. Depending on how fast someone was traveling, where the incident took place and the temperament of the provincial officer, these violations can frequently wind up affecting one's local car insurance rates if handed a ticket.

In rural environments, however, especially in parts of the province where drivers live and work, speeding tends to be less of an issue. Yet despite drivers' traveling at or below the posted speed limit, that doesn't mean that they're not at risk for being involved in an accident, mainly due to the nature of country roads and how winding they can be.

For example, according to a recent study conducted by safe driving organization Young Driver Factbase, which is based in Australia, researchers found that when there are more than one vehicle traveling in the same direction on the road, car accidents are more likely to take place, largely because of the heightened volume levels. However, when traveling on sparsely populated roads, such as those that are in rural settings, single-vehicle crashes are more likely to take place compared to if drivers are traveling alone on a highway or in an urban area.

Rebecca Ivers, a researcher who was involved in the study, said that this came as a surprise. She stated that increased effort need to be made at governmental levels no matter where winding roads are located to help reduce the risk of accidents through "greater use of engineering measures" that can help make roads less serpentine.

OPP: Don't forget to buckle up this Easter

Because people wrongly assume that their safer on winding roads because the rate of speed is typically reduced, drivers may opt to not wear their seatbelt. But provincial police officers would advise against this, especially with the long Easter weekend's arrival.

According to the Ontario Provincial Police, officers will be out in full force as March comes to an end, paying especially close attention to whether drivers are buckled up.

"Taking a few seconds to buckle up makes far more sense than going through the motions of being pulled over, being issued a ticket [and] having to pay a minimum \$240 fine," said Larry Beechey, provincial commander and head of traffic safety and operational support for the Ontario Provincial Police. "More importantly, it will go a long way to keeping you alive in the event of a collision."

Don Bell, chief superintendent for the OPP's Highway Safety Division, indicated that when the winter comes to a close and the streets are finally dry instead of wet with ice or snow, people often fall into a fall sense of security and neglect to buckle themselves up. This is

unadvisable, however, as last year, 71 people within the OPP's jurisdiction died as a result of not wearing their seatbelt.

OPP encourages all motorists to exercise discretion this Easter holiday weekend by buckling up no matter what.

CATEGORIES

Resources

