

To: All HQ Directors: Highways Operations,
All Regional Directors
All Regional Traffic Engineers
All District Managers, Transportation

Subject: Off-Road Vehicle All Clear Flagging

Purpose: This Technical Circular provides procedures for the use of All Clear flagging on vehicles that are off the road awaiting recovery and removal.

Background:

Emergency responders, and the traveling public, often stop at the site of an abandoned vehicle on the premise that there may be an occupant in need of assistance. There is potential risk of a motor vehicle incident in this environment due to oncoming traffic traveling at highway speed, unaware of a vehicle parked on the highway shoulder.

Thompson Nicola District has successfully piloted the use of yellow tape marked "All Clear" to identify vehicles that are off road and have been thoroughly attended to by either RCMP, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and/or Highway Maintenance Contractors. This tape identifies to all interested parties that the vehicle and occupants have been attended to so that there is no need to stop to provide assistance thereby reducing the risk of further incidents involving vehicles parked on the highway shoulder.

Scope and Application:

The objective of this Off-Road Vehicle Flagging Initiative is to establish a method of marking the vehicle so that it is readily identifiable that the vehicle has been inspected by the authorized personnel and there are no remaining passengers at the scene. The RCMP, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Highway Maintenance Contractors will be the only agencies authorized to mark a vehicle. A marked vehicle will also indicate that the appropriate agencies (i.e. RCMP) have been notified. In many cases, the vehicles may remain at the site until recovery operations can be safely undertaken when weather and road conditions permit. If the vehicle is causing a hazard to the traveling public or restricting maintenance it should be removed or secured with traffic control immediately and the RCMP should be notified.

Off-Road Vehicle Flagging Procedures

1. When stopping to check a vehicle, ensure that your vehicle is parked in a safe area that does not increase the risk of another accident. Protect yourself by using the vehicle's emergency lights (4-way flashers or rotary lights) and by wearing a Hi-Vis Vest that meets all safety standards.
2. Inspect the accident site for potential hazards to emergency response personnel. This could include snow avalanches, overhead wires, etc.

3. Inspect the accident site for vehicle occupants. Check underneath and a sufficient radius around the vehicle to ensure that occupants have not been thrown from the vehicle. Request emergency personnel (RCMP, Fire or Ambulance) if required.
4. Inspect the accident site for any dangerous spills or damage to government property.
5. Document the following:
 - a. Date, time and location
 - b. Make, model and licence plate number
 - c. Take pictures if possible
6. Contact the RCMP and notify them of the vehicle and all necessary accident information.
7. Ministry employees notify Highway Maintenance contractor to ensure that their operations personnel are aware.
8. Attach sufficient flagging on the vehicle to ensure that the flagging is visible from the road (see photo).



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