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Clear-road collision caution

February 27, 2017

In 2016, 39 per cent of all motor vehicle collisions in Edmonton were a result of drivers following too closely. Many of the more than 8,900 collisions could have been avoided simply by leaving more space between vehicles.

"When it is snowing, most people realize that they need to leave lots of space between their vehicle and the one they are following. However, when roads are free of snow, people tend to forget that the sand and gravel on the road acts like ball bearings under their tires," said Senior Research Coordinator Laura Thue with the City of Edmonton's Traffic Safety. "Watching your speed and slowing down early before intersections can prevent you from having a very bad day."

According to the 2016 Traffic Safety Culture Survey, the number one reason people tailgate is they are frustrated the vehicle ahead is not going as fast as they would like.

Collisions from following too closely can also occur when drivers are merging and watching over their shoulders for openings in traffic. They assume the vehicle ahead of them has gone, so they start to go, not realizing that the vehicle ahead has stopped.

"You need to leave space between vehicles even in a merge lane," said Thue. "You can reduce your odds of a being in rear-end collision with a simple change in how you drive."

The [top ten locations](#) for following-too-closely collisions for 2016 are spread out across Edmonton and include locations on the Yellowhead, 34 Avenue, and 107 Avenue.

There were approximately 800 fewer following too closely collisions in 2016 than in 2015.

[Vision Zero Edmonton's](#) long-term goal is zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

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