



Canadian Road Safety News Digest

A semi-monthly compilation of national, provincial and local news stories on road safety

For the period January 1st to 15th, 2015

Impaired driving fatality numbers plunge in Calgary

January 13, 2015, MADD Canada (CALGARY, ALBERTA)

Calgary residents may be sobering-up to the dangers of impaired driving. The number of people killed in collisions where alcohol was involved has dropped significantly in 2014, according to recent numbers from the Calgary Police Service.

In 2013, there were 18 people killed in collisions where alcohol was involved and last year that number dropped to seven, a decrease of 61 per cent.

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REVIEW: A Deadly Wandering sheds light on why we text and drive knowing it kills - Matt Richtel's book, A Deadly Wandering, is part human tragedy, part fascinating neurological exploration.

January 11, 2015, CBC News (WINNIPEG, MANITOBA)

...with Shaw's story (about how a 19 year old killed two rocket scientists while texting and driving) as a hook, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Matt Richtel asks why we text and drive when we know it kills.

Richtel's book, A Deadly Wandering, is part human tragedy, part fascinating neurological exploration.

Richtel's intensely intimate writing is also conversational. He digs deep into the personal motivation of everyone involved in Shaw's case – his family, the police, the widows of those two rocket scientists, the lawyers and an incredibly dedicated victim's advocate.

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Pedestrian-vehicle collisions down in 2014

January 8, 2014, CBC News (EDMONTON, ALBERTA)

The number of pedestrian collisions was down in Edmonton last year but improvements are still coming to some of the most notorious crosswalks in the city.

In 2014, 155 pedestrians were struck by vehicles in crosswalks and intersections, compared to 159 in 2013. In 2009 and 210, the number of pedestrian-vehicle collisions were 240 and 216, respectively.

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NDP unhappy about highways in Northern Ontario

January 7, 2015, Sudbury Star (SUDBURY, ONTARIO)

Poor winter road maintenance by private contractors is putting Ontario drivers at risk, according to a pair of NDP MPPs from Northern Ontario.

Nickel Belt MPP France Gelinis and her Timmins-James Bay counterpart Gilles Bisson held a press conference Tuesday in front of the winter maintenance patrol yard in Lively to say privatization of highway maintenance under the Liberal government has failed to improve, or has worsened, the state of Northern roads.

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It's time to wake up to the dangers of drowsy driving

January 7, 2015, Globe and Mail (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

Distracted driving has gained attention recently with increasing concerns about the risks associated with cellphone use and other multitasking behaviours behind the wheel. And drunk driving has been on our radar for decades now. This article is about another dangerous driving condition, one that is frequently ignored or minimized by drivers: drowsiness.

According to the Washington, D.C.-based Foundation for Traffic Safety, 21 per cent of fatal U.S. car crashes involve drivers who are drowsy - driving while sleepy or falling asleep at the wheel.

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Distracted drivers headed for harsher penalties

January 6, 2015, Timmins Press (TIMMINS, ONTARIO)

Harsher penalties and fines are on the way for those convicted of using handheld cellphones while driving.

The province is looking to push through new legislation that, if passed, that would increase fines and penalties for texting or chatting while driving. The latest version of the bill, which had to be reintroduced after the summer election, also contains measures to crack down on driving while high on drugs.

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Police focusing on intersection safety in January

January 2, 2015, SGI (REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN)

SGI and its law enforcement partners are continuing with month-long traffic safety focuses for 2015. In January, the province-wide focus is on intersection safety.

“Intersection collisions have increased year-over-year. Too many people are being hurt and killed on Saskatchewan roads and it needs to stop,” said Andrew Cartmell, President and CEO of SGI. “For the New Year, resolve to drive better. Drive safer. For you, your family, and everyone else on the road.”

Nearly 40 per cent of Saskatchewan crashes happen at intersections¹. The most common contributing factors are inattentiveness, failing to yield, driving too fast for road conditions, following too closely and disobeying traffic lights.

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For impaired driving, Yukon had dubious title throughout 2013: stats

January 2, 2015, Whitehorse Daily Star (WHITEHORSE, YUKON)

The Yukon has the dubious distinction of being the worst territory or province for impaired driving offences in 2013, using a statistical comparison.

Figures released last week by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics shows that for the five years from 2009 to 2013, the Yukon was consistently the second-worst jurisdiction behind the N.W.T. - until last year.

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Snowmobilers' brush with death important reminder to use common sense on ice says OPP & OFSC

January 2, 2015, Canada Newswire (ORILLIA, ONTARIO)

With two snowmobiles having fallen through the ice since the start of the new year, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) are reminding snowmobilers that no ice can be considered 100 per cent safe to ride on when snowmobiling on frozen waterways.

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Ontario driving exam company failed to properly road test truckers, report says

January 2, 2015, Toronto Star (TORONTO, ONTARIO)

The private company hired by the province to conduct all driving exams – sharing in revenue of \$800 million over 10 years – was failing to properly road test tractor-trailer drivers, a government review has found.

The failures were detected at Ontario's largest commercial truck testing centre in Woodbridge, north of Toronto, where students attempt to earn their AZ licence to become tractor-trailer drivers.

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Half of drivers living outside Quebec still not using winter tires: survey

January 1, 2015, Inside Ottawa Valley (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

Outside Quebec, where winter tire use is mandated by law, only 51 per cent of drivers use winter tires, according to a recent survey by Leger on behalf of the Tire and Rubber Association of Canada (TRAC).

The survey asked drivers if they had used winter tires this past winter.

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WATCH: It's been 5 years, have distracted driving laws worked?

January 1, 2015, Global News (VANCOUVER, B.C.)

It's been five years since it became illegal to talk on your phone or text while driving in BC. According to ICBC, between 2006 and 2010 there were an average of 95 fatal accidents. Those numbers dropped to 88 between 2009 and 2013.

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OPP dealing with numerous truck collisions on Ontario roads

January 1, 2015, Inside Ottawa Valley (OTTAWA, ONTARIO)

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is concerned about the more than 1,200 commercial motor vehicle (CMV) collisions it has responded to so far this winter and that not all CMV drivers are on board with the OPP's call for motorists to change their driving behaviours and help reduce the number of collisions on Ontario roads. Between Nov. 1 and Dec. 17, the OPP responded to 1,295 collisions that involved CMVs, with more than 220 of these incidents having occurred over the past ten days alone. In one recent incident, the driver of a tractor trailer drove into a bridge support, resulting in the jack-knifed truck leaking approximately 15,000 litres of diesel fuel into a creek.

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Canadian Events & Conferences in 2015

Call for Nominations

TAC Technical Excellence Awards

Submission Deadline: February 13, 2015

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7th International Conference on Urban Traffic Safety

Theme: Building Safer Communities Through the Safe System Approach

Shaw Conference Centre

Edmonton, Alberta.

April 27-30, 2015

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25th CARSP Conference (formerly Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference or CMRSC).

Theme: Road Safety: The Road Ahead

Delta Ottawa City Centre

Ottawa, Ontario

May 27 - 30, 2015

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Canadian Institute of Transportation

Engineers (CITE) 2015 Conference

Theme: Supporting a Healthy Vibrant Community

Regina, Saskatchewan

June 7-10, 2015

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CCMTA Annual Meeting

Yukon Convention Centre

Whitehorse, Yukon

June 16-19, 2015

[Learn more...](#)

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If you are aware of road safety news items or upcoming conferences that should be included in this Safety News Digest, please forward them to info@carsp.ca

