



IM60

**MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS**

IM60

Effective Date: 05 January 1998  
Last Reviewed/Revised Date: 03 June 2024\*

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**POLICY**

1. The Chief Constable shall provide Procedures, pursuant to this Policy, to be employed in the investigation of motor vehicle collisions including:
  - a) the types of collisions members will attend;
  - b) the proper reporting, investigation and enforcement of motor vehicle collisions; and
  - c) the use of expert and technical assistance in collision investigations.

**REASON FOR POLICY**

2. Collisions shall be investigated in order to:
  - a) assist in determining criminal or civil liability;
  - b) gather evidence to support any charges under federal, provincial or municipal statutes or breaches of Department Policy; and
  - c) identify and communicate any traffic engineering hazards.



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## RELATED POLICIES

- CS30 – Victim Services
- DP60 – Department Vehicles
- EA30 – Reportable Incidents of Injuries or Death (B.C. Police Act)
- EC50 – Security & Privacy Management of Records, Information & Data
- IM61 – Traffic Enforcement, Management & Towing
- IM62 – Impaired Driving
- IM63 – Motor Vehicle Mechanical Inspections
- IR61 – Critical Incidents
- IR62 – Hazardous Incident

## PROCEDURES

### Attending & Investigating Collisions

3. If a motor vehicle collision takes place on a highway or private property, members are to investigate, if the collision may constitute a *Motor Vehicle Act (MVA)* or *Criminal Code (CC)* offence.
4. Patrol members shall investigate collisions not involving life threatening injury, but the Patrol Sergeant may consider notifying the Traffic Section, depending on the circumstances.
5. When attending a motor vehicle collision, members shall:
  - a) if necessary, notify British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) or Delta Fire & Emergency Services (DF&ES);
  - b) ensure best practicable traffic control;
  - c) seek to determine the presence of any hazardous substances (see Section 15);
  - d) ensure all involved parties exchange names, driver's license numbers and vehicle plate numbers; and
  - e) if necessary, request a towing company.
6. Members shall complete Form MV6020, and submit it to ICBC within 10 days, following an investigation where a vehicle directly or indirectly caused injury or aggregate damage (including to property or public utilities) apparently exceeding \$10,000.



7. Employees may advise a complainant reporting a hit and run with no injuries or suspects to contact ICBC, or, a member may attend, subject to operational priorities, to investigate the complaint.
8. Members shall consider notifying Victim Services if a collision results in significant physical injury or emotional trauma (refer to Policy CS30 – *Victim Services*).
9. If the reported collision occurred in another jurisdiction, complainants are to be referred to that police agency or ICBC to make their report, or a member may create an assist file and notify the other agency.

**Fatalities, Anticipated Fatalities or Grave Injuries:  
Notifying the Duty Officer & Traffic Section**

10. Members shall notify the Duty Officer of all collisions resulting in fatalities, anticipated fatalities or grave injuries, and the Duty Officer will determine whether to attend to conduct scene management, and notify the following:
  - a) Superintendent i/c Community Policing Bureau;
  - b) Inspector i/c Community Services Section;
  - c) Traffic Section (and request their attendance);
  - d) Media Liaison Officer; and
  - e) Inspector i/c Investigative Services, if a criminal act or omission is suspected, who will determine investigative assignment with the Inspector i/c Community Services.
11. Members are responsible for scene management until the Traffic Section arrives.
12. The Traffic Section shall ensure or direct:
  - a) identification of the deceased and notification of the coroner and next of kin;
  - b) contact of a towing company, if applicable;
  - c) collection and management of all exhibits and seizure of evidence;



- d) completion of Form MV6020 and a Report to Crown Counsel (RTCC), if applicable; and
  - e) road clearing and cleanup.
13. The Traffic Sergeant shall assign a collision analyst to attend and conduct an investigation of the scene and vehicles.
14. If a death occurs as a result of a collision, and a collision survivor's actions may constitute a *MVA* or *CC* offence, the Traffic Section or Investigative Services shall investigate, and if charges are being recommended, submit a RTCC to Crown Counsel prior to the limitation period expiring for bringing summary conviction of Offence Act charges (12 months), or still being able to issue a *MVA* ticket (6 months).

Note: The investigating member shall not issue *MVA* tickets prior to a decision being made by Crown Counsel in relation to recommended *CC* charges.

**Hazardous Substances, Natural Gas or Propane & Fuel Leaks**

15. If a vehicle in a collision is carrying hazardous substances, members shall:
- a) request DF&ES attendance;
  - b) seek to remove all persons to a safe distance (suggested 200 meters);
  - c) seek to determine the Product Identification Number or United Nations Number of the dangerous goods from either from the driver or vehicle, the placards on the vehicle, or request the Dispatch Centre to query CANUTEC ERGO 2008 for emergency information; and
  - d) if necessary, contact the Dispatch Centre to notify the Canadian Transport Emergency Centre (CANUTEC) and request assistance.
16. If a vehicle in a collision is powered by natural gas or propane, members shall:
- a) seek to assess any fuel leak (e.g., by listening for gas escaping or smelling gas's odor);
  - b) if no fuel leak is suspected, advise the driver of the vehicle to close the fuel tank service line;



- c) if the vehicle is to be towed, advise the tow truck operator that the vehicle is powered by an alternate fuel and direct that the fuel service tap be closed; and
  - d) if the vehicle is seized, ensure that it is not stored in a garage or confined space until the integrity of the fuel system is assured by a certified inspector.
17. If a vehicle in a collision is suspected of having a fuel leak, members shall:
- a) shut off the vehicle engine, if it is assessed to be safe to approach and enter the vehicle;
  - b) request DF&SE attendance;
  - c) not attempt to shut off the fuel system/supply; and
  - d) seek to remove all persons to a safe distance (suggested 200 meters) and that no person smokes within the evacuation zone.

**Freedom of Information Request**

18. Requests for records or photographs related to motor vehicle collisions, with the exception of the MV6020 and prosecution disclosure, must be referred to the Information and Privacy Coordinator.

\*Revised Dates:  
01 May 2008  
15 May 2012  
13 November 2014  
20 September 2017  
16 April 2018