



# Town of Olds

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## News Release

### **Motorists Need To Be Prepared To Care For Themselves While Winter Driving**

**15 December 2011, Olds, Alberta** - Over the last number of years a disturbing trend has been growing, people travelling in winter without proper clothing and equipment. This is aggravated by the fact they get in cars which take them away from places of comfort quickly. Since most of these motorists have cell phones, the result is numerous calls for assistance that should be self contained.

Recent history reflects an expectation, along Highway 2 in the Olds area, for motorists to leave the road and get stuck, then expect RCMP attendance. This is also true for minor collisions. Motorists are required by law to report collisions where the total damage is over \$2000. This does not necessarily mean police will attend these events.

Police do not normally attend complaints of non-injury collisions, people who are stuck, or provide rides. This means you need to be prepared to spend a significant amount of time in your car if you leave the road. So pack warm clothes and possibly an emergency kit of snacks, water and blankets. If your cell phone works you can arrange for a tow truck or a ride and make any required reports later.

This winter Olds RCMP Detachment will not be providing this high level of service for a number of reasons. The first is that in most cases the events are avoidable by slowing down or staying home if conditions are very bad. Other policing pressures are taking away from, by the time required to attend.

It is critical to remember that you and you alone are responsible for you and your family's safety which starts with proper decision making. Decision making includes determining if you really need to travel, dressing for the potential weather, slowing down for road conditions, and carrying proper winter traveling items.

#### **Whiteout Tip:**

When white out conditions blow up, pull as far off the road as you can stop and wait until it clears. Do not get out of your vehicle; it is the safest place you can be. This is a weather condition, not an emergency event.