

Property Damage Collision Reporting Threshold

Questions and Answers

What is the change in the reporting threshold?

The amount of total property damage in a collision to be reported to a peace officer is going up from \$1,000 to \$2,000 in the New Year.

What does this mean for motorists?

Any collision which results in a fatality, personal injury or total property damage of \$2,000 or more must be reported to the police in the jurisdiction where the collision occurred.

When does this policy come into effect?

The new property damage collision reporting threshold comes into effect on January 1, 2011. Any collision which results in fatality, personal injury or total property damage of \$2,000 or more must be reported to the police.

Why is the threshold being changed?

Despite the increasing cost of vehicle repairs, the threshold had not changed in almost 20 years. This change will better reflect the current situation. Alberta has received a number of requests from enforcement agencies and members of the general public to raise the current dollar damage limit.

How was the decision to change the threshold made?

Following considerable discussion and consultation, the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators Board of Directors approved that a uniform reporting threshold be maintained and that jurisdictions increase their thresholds to \$2,000 as soon as they are able.

How will this benefit Albertans?

It should reduce the amount of effort and resources associated with collision reporting as motorists will no longer be required to report crashes under \$2,000 to a police officer. This change will also provide continuity in reporting of traffic collisions in Alberta.

Will the change affect my insurance?

This change is about the requirement to report collisions to the police. However, being involved in a collision may impact your insurance coverage.

If you have questions about your insurance coverage, contact your insurance agency directly. You can also gain information on what to do if you are involved in a collision by going to: http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/insurance/info_consumer_auto_collision.html

Who sets collision reporting thresholds?

Collision reporting thresholds are set in co-operation with all Canadian jurisdictions through the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators to ensure jurisdictions have consistent reporting across Canada.

Where can I gain more information on this?

You can visit the Alberta Transportation web site at www.transportation.alberta.ca or call Marlene Anderson, Office of Traffic Safety in Alberta Transportation at 780-427-6774.