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ICY ROAD CONDITIONS

Gleichen RCMP urges motorists to use caution on icy roads and know what to do after a winter collision
Gleichen, Alta. – With winter weather creating slick and unpredictable road conditions, the Gleichen RCMP is reminding drivers to adjust their habits and be prepared for emergencies. Snow, freezing rain, and black ice can significantly increase stopping distances and reduce vehicle control, leading to collisions if drivers are not cautious.

Safe driving tips for icy and snowy roads:

- Reduce your driving speed, as it will give you more time to react and help maintain traction.
- Increase your following distance and leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle ahead, as stopping on ice takes much longer.
- Avoid sudden movements. Accelerate, brake, and steer gently to prevent skidding.
- Install winter tires ahead of winter road conditions. Proper winter-rated tires greatly improve grip on icy surfaces.
- Clear all windows and lights before heading out on the road to ensure maximum visibility before driving.
- Always keep your eye open for black ice. Be particularly careful on bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas where ice forms first.

If you find yourself in a collision or sliding incident:

- Stay calm and avoid abrupt movements. If your vehicle is still drivable, carefully move it to a safe location away from traffic.
- Turn on hazard lights to alert other drivers.
- Check for injuries to yourself, passengers, and anyone involved.
- Call 911 if there are injuries, significant damage, or the roadway is blocked.
- If it's a minor collision with no injuries and vehicles are movable, pull to the side of the road to avoid secondary crashes.
- Remain in your vehicle if conditions are hazardous or if leaving could put you in danger from passing traffic.
- Document the incident by exchanging information with the other driver and taking photos if it is safe to do so.

"Now that winter is here, please give yourself some extra time to get to wherever you are planning to go. Make sure you also bring with you winter clothing in case you do run into car trouble and need to wait for help or walk to a near by residence or business to call for help. Let's take our time, drive safe and have a great start to the winter months" – **Sgt Josh Argue, Gleichen RCMP Detachment**