

Curb the Danger

For years the public has been inundated with messages warning about the dangers of drinking and driving. In spite of these efforts, people continue to drive after they have been drinking, often with tragic results. This has been a frustration for police agencies and the public. The Camrose Police Service in 2011 adopted the Curb the Danger project and it has been very successful.

The program is simple. If a citizen spots someone they suspect is driving while impaired they call 9-1-1 and report the last direction of travel of the suspect vehicle, make of the vehicle and a license plate. Annually, approximately 40% of vehicles intercepted result in an impaired driving charge, 24-hour license suspension or other appropriate charge. The unique component to the program is that if police are unable to intercept the suspect vehicle, and if there is a license plate and driving pattern given, the registered owner of the vehicle is sent a letter. In that letter the owner is informed that their vehicle was reported to Curb the Danger by a concerned citizen.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The distracted driving legislation in Alberta provides an exemption to allow the use of a hand held cellular device to report an emergency which includes a possible impaired driver reported to 9-1-1.

The Curb the Danger program has caught on with more than Camrose Citizens; the publicity it has generated has caught the attention of Police agencies in Canada and around the world.

Year-End Curb the Danger Statistics for 2011 in Camrose, Alberta

Impaired Driving Arrests	39
24 - Hour Suspensions	17
Letters sent to Registered Owners	35
Calls from the Public	320

Sadly as long as there are people who choose to drink and drive, there will be a need for the Curb the Danger program. Those who have the propensity to drink and drive should realize that in addition to the Police, the citizens of Camrose are on the lookout for impaired drivers.