Our responsibilities

The RCMP is responsible for:

Preventing and investigating crime.
Maintaining peace and order; enforcing laws.
Contributing to national security.

About the RCMP

The RCMP is Canada’s national police service, and in BC also acts as the police force of jurisdiction for many towns and cities. The RCMP is committed to cultural sensitivity, and unbiased and respectful treatment of all people.

Contact Us

Emergency: 9-1-1
Non-Emergency: your local RCMP detachment (rcmp-grc.gc.ca/detach/en)
Website: bc.rcmp.ca (English and French)
We are here to help!
The RCMP can help in situations such as the following:

- Investigating a break-in to a home.
- Participating in community festivals and conducting traffic control at special events.
- Locating a missing person.
- Offering crime prevention information to prevent further crimes.
- Assisting with traffic safety if there is a vehicle collision.

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Spot us in your community

Police officers work in different roles and they can be dressed in various ways, such as:

- **REGULAR UNIFORM**
  Worn by general duty officers, traffic services, and community policing officers.

- **RED OR BLUE SERGE**
  Worn by general duty officers, traffic services, and community policing officers.

- **PLAIN CLOTHING**
  Specialized teams can be dressed in business attire or casual clothing depending on roles.

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CONTACT POLICE

What is an emergency?

If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1 immediately. Examples of when to call 9-1-1:

- Fire, medical or life-threatening incident that requires an ambulance.
- Someone’s life is in danger.
- A crime in progress, such as a break and enter.
- When a serious crime has just happened and the suspect may still be near and/or return to the scene.
- When there is a good chance of arresting a suspect or preventing a serious crime.

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The 5 W’s

When you call the police, remember the 5 W’s:

- **WHAT**
  WHAT is the incident being reported?

- **WHEN**
  WHEN did it happen?

- **WHERE**
  WHERE did it happen?

- **WHO**
  WHO is involved?

- **WHY**
  WHY do you think this happened?

Telecommunications operators are highly trained to gather specific information from you through a series of questions. By staying on the line, remaining calm, and answering the questions, you can help guide our response.

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What is a non-emergency?

Examples of a non-emergency call:

- Reporting a crime that has already been committed and there are no suspects (i.e. your vehicle was broken into overnight).
- Reporting suspicious or nuisance behaviour (i.e. a noisy party).
- Getting or giving follow-up information for a police file you have already.

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We may contact you if

Will the police contact you?
Police may need to speak with you either inside your home or while out in the community. For example, police may want to:

- Talk about an ongoing investigation.
- Search your neighbourhood for information about a crime that occurred.
- Provide crime prevention or safety information.

If you have doubts about the identity of a police officer, you can ask for their official identification, including the officer’s name and badge number.

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If an officer visits your home

Police officers can enter your home when:

- They have been invited inside by someone in the home.
- They have reasonable grounds to believe there is an emergency or someone is being hurt.
- They have a legal document showing they are allowed inside.

To check the well-being of someone in the residence (i.e. abandoned 911 call).

If police attend your residence while you are home, you should answer the door. If you have cultural traditions that you want the officer to be aware of, please let them know.

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If an officer stops your vehicle

To ensure everyone’s safety when stopped by police, you should slow down and pull over to the right side of the road as soon as it is safe to do so.

- Roll down the window and keep hands visible
- Stay in your vehicle unless directed otherwise by the police officer
- Speak to the officer and provide any requested documents such as driver’s license and registration papers. It is the law to show these documents to a police officer when asked to do so.

Police have the authority to stop a vehicle at any time to check for driving infractions or other violations. Officers are trained to make safe vehicle stops by following a certain procedure. You may be concerned about the way they approach your car, but it is not meant to intimidate you.

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Terms you may hear

**VICTIM**
Someone who has been harmed emotionally or physically as a result of a crime, accident or event.

**WITNESS**
Someone who sees a crime or accident take place.

**SUSPECT**
Someone who is thought to have committed a crime or offense.

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RCMP
Newcomers Guide
INTERACTIONS WITH POLICE
Report hate crimes

In Canada, a hate crime is defined as any criminal offense against a person, group or property that is motivated by hatred or prejudice towards an identifiable group.

Call 9-1-1 to report a hate crime. When reporting an incident, state that you are reporting a hate crime.

Report emergencies such as attacks, assaults and threats.

Report non-emergency crimes such as graffiti, vandalism and hate propaganda.

The following are the identifiable groups outlined in the Criminal Code of Canada: race, colour, ethnicity and language, religion, age, mental or physical disability, sex or sexual orientation, or any other similar factor.

Hate crimes that are reported to police are taken seriously. People that are convicted of a hate crime may face more severe sentencing than other criminal offences that are not motivated by hate.

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