

Saskatchewan cracks down on speeders in orange zones

RCMP, government team up to make construction zones safer

Reported by Sarah Mills

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The RCMP and government are teaming up to crackdown on those speeding in orange zones.

It comes on the heels of the death of Ashley Dawn Richards. The pregnant 18-year-old flag girl was killed when she was struck by a driver speeding near Midale this summer.

While the government considers how to make construction zones safer it is paying \$15,000 to cover overtime so more officers can be out on the highways ticketing those who speed.

The law requires drivers to slow to 60 kilometres per hour when passing highway workers.

Roughly 175 tickets are handed out every year. Highways minister Don McMorris doesn't understand why those fines are a deterrent.

"I don't know whether it is drivers don't know they are entering an orange zone or they choose to ignore the rules and regulations that are in place," he told reporters at the legislature Wednesday.

While this increased enforcement takes place, likely until the end of the construction season, the government is also looking at measures to improve safety.

"It could be fine increases, other safety measures such as rumble strips or things like that," he said.

Since Richard's death the government has been in consultation with highway construction firm and others to hear suggestions. Any changes are expected to be announced in the coming weeks.

Photo



Construction on a Saskatchewan highway. Courtney Minterko/CJME News.

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