



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Police Administration Building,
Corner Edward and Sackville Streets, Port of Spain
Telephone: 1 (868) 625-8395 Facsimile: 1 (868) 625-7133
Email: corporatecommunications@ttps.gov.tt

February 15th, 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

WPC Seriously Injured on Highway, TTPS Warns Drivers on Reckless Driving

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) is warning motorists that they can face serious charges such as causing death by dangerous driving when they fail to reduce speeds, particularly at emergency scenes.

According to the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No.2) Act, 2000, Section 71A:

(1) Any person who causes the death of another person by driving a motor vehicle dangerously on a road, is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for 15 years.

(2) A person convicted of an offence under this section shall be disqualified for a period of 15 years from the date of the conviction from holding or obtaining a driving permit, and on a second conviction for a like offence, shall be permanently disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving permit.

The warning comes as WPC Erica Jacob, of the Traffic and Highway Patrol Branch, Central Division, who was a first responder at a road traffic accident at 3 am on February 12th, along the Northbound lane of the Uriah Butler Highway, was seriously injured after being hit by a truck.

WPC Jacob is currently warded at hospital in the Intensive Care Unit.

The truck driver is currently detained in the Northern Division assisting police with investigations.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Ag.), Traffic and Highway Patrol Branch, Wayne Mystar, is urging motorists, who commute on the nation's highways to remain "extremely vigilant" upon seeing emergency vehicle lights and to "fully cooperate" with the directions of law enforcement and first responders.

Snr. Supt. (Ag.), Mystar, said, "Motorists should firstly reduce their speed, give way to emergency vehicles and stay clear of the scene of an accident." He said, "Emergency vehicle warning lights are

Members of the public are asked to like and follow the TTPS via our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for the latest news and information on matters of interest to the general public.

purposefully used to indicate the presence of first responders such as police, fire, emergency medical technicians and wrecking teams on the roadways and aid in ensuring their safety.”

“As a best practice, drivers should give emergency responders at least 1.5 meters (five feet) of operating space and move out of the lanes where personnel are working,” he said.

He explained, “Police officers responding to road traffic incidents must often deal with multiple situations ranging from assisting drivers, passengers or other road users who may have been injured in the incident, to securing the scene to mitigate the risk of secondary accidents from occurring. Drivers need to increase their level of alertness when approaching any situation where police or other emergency responders are present.”

Snr. Supt. (Ag.) Myster warned that, as in past cases, “police officers can issue tickets to drivers who, instead of complying with traffic signs and traffic directions of police officers, stop and use mobile phones to record the scene of the accident for posting or streaming to social media.”

This “multi-ticketable” practice, the Snr. Supt. (Ag.) cautioned, oftentimes “creates even more traffic and add further, unnecessary risk to both first responders and other road users.”

TTPS Road Safety Project Coordinator, Sgt. Brent Batson, stressed that traffic officers are exposed to greater risk.

“Highway Patrol officers are at a greater risk due to the high speed of 100 km/h on the roads they police where seconds are critical for a driver being able to react and control a motor vehicle to safely avoid hazards on the road,” Sgt. Batson said.

He said, “At an accident, there are multiple moving parts each with its own inherent risk and the officers there have to ensure that the roads are safe before any lanes can be reopened to traffic and this includes situational considerations such as dealing with injured persons who may need critical medical assistance, spillage of vehicle oils and dangerous debris on the road.”

The Executive of the TTPS sends its prayers to WPC Jacob and her family at this time.

Corporate Communications Unit

February 15th, 2022

END