



REPORT TO CALGARY POLICE COMMISSION



CPS Monthly Chief's Reports: Crime Update – Bureau of Community Policing – March 2023

Date

2023.03.15

Commission Role

Information only Approval

Type of Meeting

- Full Commission meeting
 Governance and Personnel (G&P) Sub-Committee
 Finance and Audit (F&A) Sub-Committee
 Complaint Oversight (COC) Sub-Committee
 Anti-Racism Committee

Purpose

As part of the Chief's Report at the monthly Calgary Police Commission meeting, the Bureau of Community Policing Crime Update is intended to provide the members of the CPC with insights related to the ongoing crime trending as well as some of the efforts being made that could be shared publicly. This is not intended to replace the quarterly crime reporting and update as received through regularly scheduled reporting to the CPC as required and is intended to supplement the update provided by the Bureau of Investigative Support.

Key Messages

- CPS continues to focus on the impact of violent crime, especially shootings, guns, and drug-related crime.
- In February, there were continued notable decreases in Commercial Robberies, Domestic Violence, Residential and Commercial Break and Enters, Vehicle Thefts and Car-prowling's.
- Shootings are continuing to trend below 2022 numbers with a 37% reduction to March 9, 2023 (17 shootings year to date).
- Social disorder experienced a slight reduction as compared to the five-year average.
- The CPS launched a Break and Enter Prevention education initiative and the Downtown CPS & Sheriffs pilot program.
- Calgary experienced two traffic fatalities in February and education and enforcement efforts were focused on distracted driving in line with the provincial traffic safety

calendar. Impaired driving intervention also has continued to be emphasized with Immediate Roadside Sanctions and Criminal Code charges.

- Public education traffic safety efforts continued with additional emphasis on occupant restraints and the “Slow Down, Move Over” campaign.

Summary of Issues and Trends

The CPS focus on addressing crime is a critical part of our overall strategy and falls in line with the strategic goal of increased community safety and wellbeing. Several key strategic initiatives were identified as part of the 2023 Annual Policing Plan including:

- Establish city-wide and district specific priorities via the monthly Crime Reduction Strategy
- Reducing violent crime through investigation, enforcement, and offender management
- Reducing crime and disorder in the downtown with partners and support agencies
- Improve traffic safety through education, partnership, and enforcement efforts
- Decreasing property crime by targeting break and enters and auto theft
- Support vulnerable persons and improve call diversion (this includes Downtown safety)
- Prepare safety plans for events, protests, and parades and support the WPC safety plan

The CPS will be responsive to these priorities as well as new and ongoing crime trends that emerge. Some of the highlights since our last crime update include:

Crime trending for January 2023 based on the 5-year average (Citywide)

Month of February 2023 only:

Citywide	Feb 2023	Non-Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence	Domestic Reporting	Residential B&E	Commercial B&E	Vehicle Theft	Carprowing	Disorder
DIFF AVG (%)		2%	-39%	2%	-47%	-44%	-28%	-28%	-3%
Significance		→	↓	→	↓	↓	↓	↓	→
DIFF AVG (N)		10	-137	31	-126	-163	-129	-233	-185

2023 YTD:

Citywide	YTD	Non-Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence	Domestic Reporting	Residential B&E	Commercial B&E	Vehicle Theft	Carprowing	Disorder
DIFF AVG (%)		-3%	-27%	1%	-36%	-31%	-21%	-23%	-3%
Significance		→	↓	→	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
DIFF AVG (N)		-27	-198	19	-216	-241	-206	-431	-332

Note: The statistics reported within are excerpts from the Volume Crime and Disorder Monthly Report which is strategic operational decision-making informing report used to understand crime trending in the city and are based at an occurrence level count for all portfolios. As such, some differences may be noted with other crime statistical reporting.

Legend:

- Non-domestic violence:** All levels of assaults, robberies (personal and commercial), extortion, etc.
- Domestic violence:** Family violence and violence involving domestic partners.
- Domestic reporting:** Reported occurrences in domestic situations that did not escalate to the point of violence
- Residential B&E:** Break and enters to residential properties and outbuildings.
- Commercial B&E:** Break and enters to commercial properties including premises, storage facilities, yards, etc.
- Vehicle Theft:** Theft of automobile
- Car prowing:** Entering of vehicles which may include theft of property from within
- Disorder:** A variety of occurrence types that impact on people’s perceptions of safety including unwanted guests, suspicious persons, disturbances, etc.

Summary of selected highlights and insights:

- Violent incidents (non-domestic) in Calgary were neutral in February. Assaults saw a mild increase while other violence had a mild decrease.
- In February, there was a notable decrease in the citywide number of reported domestic violence incidents compared to the average (212 vs. 349). The year-to-date domestic violence incidents was -27% lower than the 5-year average. Domestic reporting on the other hand, was neutral when compared to the five-year average (1,347 vs. 1,316) which is important in assessing what we see with reported domestic violence. If the domestic reporting was significantly lower, that could be cause for increased concern however that is not what our trends have shown.
- As of March 9, 2023, year to date there have been 17 shooting incidents that have occurred in Calgary. This is a 37% decrease as compared to the 27 incidents to the same time in 2022. Of the 17 shootings thus far, 3 of them have been cleared by charge with 13 that are open and still under investigation. Of the 3 incidents cleared by charge, there are 7 accused identified with 55 charges laid, including 33 weapons-related charges.
- For the month of February, Commercial Robberies were down 12 occurrences or 38.3% from the five-year average and street/personal robberies were up slightly by 2 occurrences or 5.5% above the five-year average.
- There were 638 break and enter occurrences recorded for February which was down 45% from the five-year average and 48% from February 2022.
- Residential break and enter activity dropped significantly again this month with 144 residential B&E's which is the lowest volume recorded in February for the past six years (Average of 270). The numbers could partially be impacted by the timeline in processing online reporting for "other" category break and enters. The 205 incidents of reported commercial break and enters was 44% lower than the 5-year average for February and February of 2022 (Average of 368 and 402 in February of 2022).
- There were 934 reported incidents of vehicle crime recorded in February, a significant decrease of 28% from the 5-year average (363 fewer incidents). Compared against the same month last year, there were 441 fewer incidents representing a 32% decrease from February 2022. Again, it should be noted that some of these numbers are subject to change (likely to increase) due to timelines in online reporting through Cop Logic. Of the 934 reported incidents, 598 involved car-prowling and 336 involved vehicle thefts. Vehicle thefts were 28% lower than the previous 5-year average (336 vs. 465) and 27% below February of 2022.
- February 2023 saw a slight reduction of disorder activity (215 fewer calls), mostly driven by reductions in calls of suspicious persons and vehicles. Unwanted guests and disturbances saw the largest increases against averages.

Drug & Gun and Violence Related Investigations:

As part of the strategy to address crime and harm in the community, the districts continued to focus on violence, drug, and gun related investigations. A few examples of significance since the last report include:

Casino Robbery Series and Arrest

In mid-February, a lone masked male offender entered a NE Calgary casino, demanding cash from the cash booth while claiming to have a gun, then fled in a vehicle. HAWCS and surveillance resources were able to locate and follow the vehicle until resources were in place to conduct a high-risk traffic stop. One male was taken into custody, interviewed by District 1 detectives, subsequently confessing to the robbery. Money taken during the robbery was recovered by members and returned to the casino. Upon arrest, the Robbery Unit then identified this individual to be involved in two other casino robberies and subsequently charged for three Casino robberies in total. A total of five robbery charges and three disguise with intent charges were laid on this individual. The swift work of coordinated resources across the Service including patrol, HAWCS, Canine Unit, General Investigations and Robbery Units led to the apprehension and prevention of further offending.

District 3 Robbery Arrest

Investigators have charged a male in connection with a string of robberies that occurred in early March. The male had entered four businesses in the NW, brandishing a weapon and demanded money from employees prior to fleeing. The next day, the same male entered another restaurant and threatened an employee with a weapon and demanded money. The employee fled the location and contacted police. CPS members responded and were able to locate and arrest the subject, charging him with five counts of robbery and three counts of wearing a disguise with intent. This is a good example of prompt and effective reporting and collaboration with police in order to quickly apprehend the offender.

District 1 Operation

In October 2022, a member of the District 1 Operations Team observed a male in a vehicle engaging in a drug transaction. A subsequent investigation of this vehicle led to the identification of a known drug trafficker, and multiple observations consistent with drug trafficking. This investigation continued and on March 7, 2023, investigators conducted a traffic stop on the individual while in the course of a drug transaction with a passenger in the vehicle. A search warrant was executed on the vehicle and an associated residence leading to the seizure of 32 individual baggies of powdered and crack cocaine, approximately \$380 in cash and 3 cell phones. One individual was arrested and charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking, proceed of crime and one count resist arrest. These types of investigations are quite common and occur across all districts which have a cumulative effect in addressing crime and holding offenders accountable.

Property Crime Operations, Investigations, and Other Initiatives

Break and Enter Series and Arrest

CPS members charged a man in relation to a series of break and enters that occurred in the NW communities of Edgemont and Varsity between September of 2022 and January of 2023. It is believed that in three separate sprees, the suspect targeted residences while the victims were away, using break and enter instruments to gain access to the homes and disable alarm systems. While inside some of the homes, the suspect stole clothing, jewelry, and various other high-value items. Following the investigation, one male was charged with three counts of break and enter, one count of possession of stolen property, and one count of possession of break and enter instruments. The service shared images of the recovered property with the media to identify the rightful owners.

Break and Enter Crime Prevention Education Initiative

District 6 has moved forward with an initiative aimed at educating the community on steps to aid in the prevention of break and enters. This has included establishing a web page featuring tips to prevent victimization, sharing information across all districts in the City, as well as establishing a QR code to use in materials to link community with these tips aimed at property crime reduction.



Downtown Safety Initiative – Partnership with D1 Beats and Alberta Sheriffs

The Calgary Police Service District 1 Beat teams are partnered with twelve members of the Alberta Sheriffs to create an integrated team for a 12-week period between February 27th, 2023 – May 31st, 2023. This partnership has been created to increase law enforcement resources to combat social disorder concerns specific to the Calgary Centre City.

The primary objective of these efforts is to deliver a coordinated highly visible police presence and direct law enforcement response to areas of community concern in the core. The deployment direction will be fluid and based on identified areas of criminality, social disorder and specific to community concerns driven by analytical support. To that end, we have engaged partners in the downtown community to inform their focus areas.

The mission is to reduce social and physical disorder and violence by deploying to hotspot locations identified by analysis of CPS call for service data, concerns brought forward to Community Resource Officers, supplemented by data provided by the Calgary downtown business community.

Transit Safety Initiatives

CTrain safety initiatives are continuing utilizing multiple CPS resources across the city. Covert resources are focusing on open air drug trafficking on CTrain lines and near platform stations. Referrals to SORCe are being made for traffickers identified as having addictions. Districts 4 and 5 have partnered on an operation focused on drug trafficking and violence at CTrain stations

spanning multiple locations in both districts, focusing on offenders who consistently remain active between Whitehorn, Franklin, Rundle, and Marlborough stations. There are seven ongoing investigations at District 5 stations alone. District 8 has also prioritized disorder and property crime activity between Somerset and Shawnessy LRT stations and business corridor, which have been identified to be hotspots of disorder related activity and is currently a crime reduction priority for District 8 patrol members. CPS continues to work with Calgary Transit to address issues of highest concern.

Traffic Safety Highlights:

Efforts continued throughout February to address Traffic Safety through prevention and enforcement initiatives. The Alberta Traffic Safety Calendar focus for the month of February was Distracted Driving which was promoted internally and externally.

February 2023 included two reportable fatal collisions bumping the YTD total to three. Although registering higher than 2022 (which observed no fatal collisions in Q1), the current count ranks on par with average for this time-period. 2021 observed a slightly higher than average total resulting from an atypical spike of pedestrian fatalities in Q1 (capturing half of the year's total).

Year to date monthly traffic investigation totals (for serious-injury or fatal collisions) continues to register above the 5-year average for this period, with non-reportable collisions (C-Train x 2) driving up the totals. To the end of February, the five-year average for these collisions is 6 and we have had 8 investigations that required full traffic section investigations.

Traffic Service Requests:

In February, 110 Traffic Service Requests (TSR's) were submitted which is 9.7% fewer than January of 2023 but higher than average over the past few years. Our Traffic Section addressed 109 of the requests and one was supported by a District. The Residential Traffic Safety Unit continues to follow through and attend community association meetings, having attended ten in February with eleven scheduled for March.

Bill 21 – Immediate Roadside Sanctions (IRS) and Impaired Driving Statistics

The Service continues to focus on addressing impaired driving and in February, issued 197 impaired contraventions registering an 18% increase as compared to 2022.

March's Traffic Safety Enforcement Focus is 'Seatbelts & Child Restraints' – Seatbelts Save Lives

In conjunction with the provincial traffic safety enforcement calendar, March's focus is seatbelts and child restraints. As such, Traffic Section has been working with Patrol Districts to focus on education and enforcement as it pertains to occupant restraints in vehicles with the key message being that one of the simplest things you can do to protect yourself in a collision is wear your seatbelt.



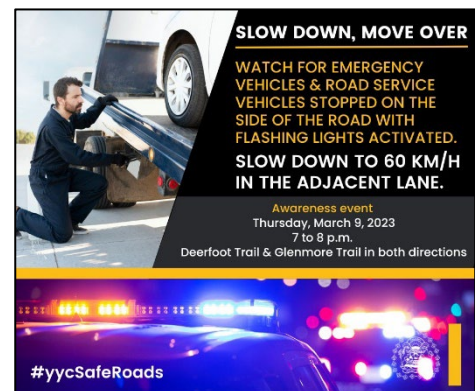
Occupant Restraint Safety Facts Provided by our Partners at Alberta Transportation

- From 2016 to 2020, there were 219 unbelted fatalities in Alberta.
- About a fifth of those fatalities were those aged 18 to 24 years old.
- During 2020, 41 people died and 265 people sustained injuries as a result of not being properly restrained at the time of the collision.
- In 2020, restraint users involved in collisions had a much lower injury rate (7.1 per cent) than those not using restraints (17.6 per cent).
- A 2017 Driver Attitude Survey indicated 95 per cent of Albertans agree that when driving or riding in a motor vehicle, one should always wear a seatbelt.
- Without a booster seat, a child is three and a half times more likely to suffer a significant injury.
- Airbags offer additional protection in collisions but are designed to supplement the safety features provided by seatbelts.

With the warmer weather approaching, the focus will be turning to speed in April and motorcycle safety in May.

Slow down, Move Over Initiative

On Thursday, March 9, 2023, Tow truck drivers, first responders, road maintenance crews and the John Petropoulos Memorial Fund teamed up to bring awareness to road safety and the need for drivers to slow down and move over when they see vehicles with flashing lights on Calgary roadways. Between 7 and 8 pm, a contingent of emergency vehicles were parked in both directions alongside Deerfoot Trail near the offramps to Glenmore Trail as a reminder for drivers to slow down and move over. Members of the CPS including Traffic Section were on-hand to assist with public messaging to reinforce the importance of road safety in these circumstances.



Legislative change requiring all lanes passing emergency vehicles to slow to 60 km/h or to the posted or unposted speed limit has been put on hold until the fall by the GOA. Current legislation requiring only the lane 'adjacent' to a roadside emergency vehicle to slow to 60 km/h or to the posted or unposted speed limit (whichever is slower) is still in force and effect.

Attachments (if any)

Nil.

