

February 26, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Police in Emergency Status for Accident Response**

Due to winter road conditions and available resources, the Springfield Police Department has placed accident response in "Emergency Status." When emergency status is in effect, citizens reporting motor vehicle accidents will be instructed to make a walk-in accident report if the following conditions exist:

- All vehicles involved are operable
- The accident is non-injury
- No alcohol/drug-impaired driver is involved

Springfield Police strongly encourage drivers to be attentive to their driving responsibilities during winter weather travel. This responsibility includes clearing all windows of ice and snow before driving; allowing greater distance from one vehicle to the next; steering and braking gently; driving the appropriate speed for the current conditions, which could be far less than the posted speed limits; and being prepared for the mistakes potentially made by other drivers. Also, be especially cautious when traveling on bridges, which often freeze before the rest of the roadway.

As soon as conditions allow, response to accidents will be returned to normal.

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Release authorized by: Lt. Greg Wheelen