

# CVSA inspection finds over 450 offences

Ryan Kiedrowski

Chronicle writer

A three-day commercial vehicle stop held in the Brooks area recently produced some interesting numbers and insight as to how safe some local vehicles are.

While no hard numbers could be garnered as to how many vehicles were inspected over the large operation, Sgt. Troy Hasil, Infrastructure and Transportation, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch, estimated 'there were several hundred vehicles checked.' Aside from commercial vehicles, passenger cars and motorcycles were also included in the traffic stop.

"Of all the vehicles that we did check, our officers (Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance or CVSA) selected 155 of those vehicles for a Level 1 CVSA inspection," Hasil told *The Chronicle*. "Out of those 155 vehicles, 59 of them had to be repaired before they left the check site."

Those vehicles were then considered 'out of service,' with repairs ranging anywhere from brake lights not working to drivers exceeding their hours.

"The total number of commercial vehicles that were not allowed to continue was 74," Hasil added.

Many vehicles that were considered to be in good shape were flagged through with those that were obviously in violation stopped. One method of finding out if a vehicle is roadworthy or not that officers employed was a thermal imaging unit that detected hot spots on the vehicle.

"You can tell if there's no heat on a brake, that maybe we should inspect that and see if there's something wrong with the brake," Hasil explained, adding that if a tire is excessively hot, it could mean one of the tires might be flat.

Vehicles that passed inspection received a CVSA sticker to not only verify the machine is in working order, but to ensure the same vehicle is not stopped more than once.

In all, 469 offenses were detected, 143 prosecution tickets were written and seven overloads were found - one of which was fined over \$3,800.

"We had some high speeds through some of our locations and some of those tickets were well over \$500," Hasil said, noting that speed fines double when passing emergency vehicles while over the posted speed limit.

While some traffic stops might not have the resources to pursue the speeders, RCMP, Highway Patrol and Brooks Protective Services also assisted in the event, and were able to deal with the lead-foot drivers.

"It was great to see all the different agencies working together," Hasil said. "Hopefully it makes the Brooks area a little safer to drive."

While the highly visible traffic stops are out of the area for now, Hasil reminded that there are officers in Brooks that are out on a daily basis along with RCMP, Protective Services and Highway Patrol that are always on the lookout for the same offenses.