



Wildlife-Vehicle Collisions in Alberta peak in November

According to the provincial government, approximately half of all rural vehicle accidents in Alberta involve wildlife, with most of these accidents happening between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. There are over a thousand crashes each month, but that number more than doubles each November, with over 2,600 accidents occurring.

Canadian statistics (which compare to Alberta stats) show the vast majority (89%) of wildlife-vehicle collisions occur on rural, two-lane roads and each year, wildlife-car collisions cost about \$800 million in Canada.

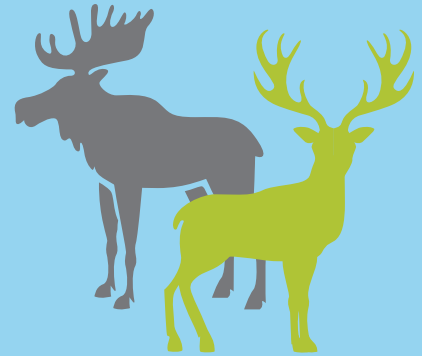
Did you know.....



54% of crashes on rural highways involved wildlife.



4% of those crashes resulted in human casualties.



Deer are involved in 80% of wildlife/vehicle collisions with the peak month being November.

Moose are involved in approximately 7% of vehicle collisions which spike in December and January.



Alberta statistics indicate that Fridays have 15.8% of all collisions.



Alberta reports 35% of all collisions involving animals occurred between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Following are some tips to minimize vehicle collisions with wildlife.

- Avoid throwing any litter/garbage out your window which may attract wildlife.
- Be alert and slow down when driving at dusk/dawn when wildlife is most active,
- Slow down once you see wildlife near the road – you can never be sure where they're going or how many of them there may be.
- Pay attention to posted wildlife warning signs.
- Use your high beams when driving at night for maximum visibility.
- Avoid distracted driving; paying attention to your surroundings is the best way to prevent a collision!

For power outages, emergency power troubles and service requests, contact the distribution system operator for FENN REA: **ATCO Electric**
Phone toll-free: 1-800-668-2248

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Alberta's New Plan to Combat Rural Crime

On November 6, Justice Minister Doug Schweitzer released the Alberta government's plan to combat rural crime during a press conference in Wetaskiwin. The announcement follows a series of 18 town hall meetings in rural Alberta communities over the preceding weeks.

Figures from Statistics Canada show a significantly higher crime rate in rural Alberta than in urban centers, statistics that Minister Schweitzer believes are low. During the press conference he stated that one of the learnings during the rural crime tour was that many rural residents have ceased reporting thefts.



Highlights of the proposed changes include the following.

- A new Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defense Force (RAPID Force) will expand the roles and authorities of 400 peace officers in the Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch and the traffic arm of the Alberta Sheriffs. Training and related planning is underway, the goal being to have the first of these officers available to assist the RCMP by the fall of 2020.
- There are changes proposed to the Occupiers' Liability Act. A criminal trespasser would have no right of civil action against a law-abiding property owner who is defending their property and families against trespassers. This provision would be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2018. Fines for trespassing would increase 5-fold, and corporations that help or direct trespassers would face fines up to \$200,000.
- The *Petty Trespass Act* and the *Animal Health Act* would be revised to create offences and penalties for people who enter agricultural land and operations without authorization or encourage others to do so. This proposal is in response to a recent protest by animal activists at a turkey farm near Fort Macleod.
- The *Scrap Metal Dealers and Recyclers Identification Act* was assented to on April 29, 2012 but not proclaimed until November 5, 2019. The legislation requires scrap metal dealers and recyclers to obtain identification from sellers and to record all transactions. Part of the intent of the Act is to increase the safety, security and reliability of electrical installations by reducing the incidence of copper theft.
- Community impact statements and additional support for victims are other aspects of the new plan. The *Restitution Recoveries Program* will help victims collect outstanding payments on restitution orders by giving government the authority to use enforcement measures against offenders, such as garnishing wages or seizing and selling property, as needed.

Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

The RRO rate may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you receive the default RRO rate.

For October 2019, the RRO is priced at \$0.06318 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For November 2019, the Battle River Power Coop monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.06800; the billing rate charged to FENN REA members is \$0.06800. The RRO rate is also listed on www.fennrea.com.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

Information on FENN REA's Code of Conduct Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.fennrea.com