

ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS REGION 9 – Northern Lights West Region 2007

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the “who”, “what”, “when”, “where”, “why”, and “how” of traffic collisions which occurred in Northern Lights West Region during 2007. Although the report is general in nature, it pays particular attention to casualty collisions, that is, those collisions that result in death or injury.

We are providing this report to support you in rolling out the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan at the community level. The priority goals of the Plan are to reduce collision fatalities and injuries by addressing:

- Seat belt and child safety seat use for all vehicle occupants;
- Speeding
- Intersection safety; and
- Impaired driving.

In connection to the top priorities of the TSAP this report also includes collision information regarding restraint use of collision-involved individuals, intersection related casualty collisions, speed-related casualty collisions and alcohol-involved casualty collisions in your region.

The information in this fact sheet will also allow you to look at your region in relation to the province as a whole. The provincial Collision Facts report and the Alberta Annual Traffic Collision Statistics report are posted on our web site at: www.transportation.alberta.ca/3121.htm.

ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS

REGION 9 – Northern Lights West Region

2007

WHAT HAPPENED ON NORTHERN LIGHTS WEST'S ROADWAYS IN 2007?

During 2007...

- 11 people were killed as a result of traffic collisions.
- 133 people were injured in traffic collisions
- A total of 553 collisions occurred.

In 2007 approximately...

- One person was killed every 33 days.
- One person was injured every 3 days.
- 2 traffic collisions were reported daily.

NORTHERN LIGHTS WEST TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 2003-2007

Severity of Collision	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Fatal	8	8	8	6	6
Non-Fatal Injury	86	75	119	70	102
Property Damage	459	439	450	435	378
Total Reportable Collisions	553	522	577	511	486
Number Killed	11	9	9	6	8
Number Injured	133	123	184	110	162
Total Number of Casualties	144	132	193	116	170

SPECIAL ROAD USER CLASSES

Vulnerable Road Users

Vulnerable road users include pedestrians, motorcyclists and bicyclists. In 2007, there were five casualty collisions involving a vulnerable road user.

Truck Tractors

In 2007, there were 5 casualty collisions involving truck tractors. Truck tractor collisions were likely to occur during the daytime in rural areas. None of the truck tractor drivers had been drinking.

WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

Traffic Fatalities (%)		Traffic Injuries (%)	
27.3	Drivers	58.6	Drivers
27.3	Passengers	33.1	Passengers
18.2	Pedestrians	0.8	Pedestrians
--	Bicyclists	0.8	Bicyclists
--	Motorcyclists	--	Motorcyclists
27.3	Other road user class/unspecified	6.8	Other road user class/unspecified

WHEN DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

June, July and August saw the most fatal collisions. January recorded the highest number of injury collisions. The highest number of property damage collisions occurred during December. There were more collisions on Friday than any other day of the week. The afternoon rush-hour period accounted for the highest number of crashes.

WHERE DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

None of the fatal collisions and nearly 11% of injury collisions occurred at intersections. Almost two thirds of all collisions occurred in rural areas. In 2007, the top urban collision locations were High Level and La Crete with 18% and 8% of the collisions, respectively.

Urban (%)		Rural (%)	
1.5	Fatal Collisions	1.4	Fatal Collisions
11.2	Injury Collisions	18.1	Injury Collisions
87.3	Property Damage Collisions	80.5	Property Damage Collisions

WHO WERE THE DRIVERS INVOLVED IN CASUALTY COLLISIONS?

% Drivers in Casualty Collisions by Age

Age	% Drivers in Fatal Crashes	% Drivers in Injury Crashes
Under 16	--	1.9
16-17	11.1	9.3
18-19	22.2	3.7
20-24	11.1	20.6
25-34	22.2	28.0
35-44	11.1	16.8
45-54	11.1	10.3
55-64	11.1	6.5
65+	--	2.8

WHAT DRIVER ACTIONS CONTRIBUTED TO CASUALTY COLLISIONS?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, three quarters made an improper action that contributed to the collision. The most common driver error in fatal crashes was running off the road. Almost half of the drivers in injury collisions committed an improper action; most commonly, running off the road.

WHAT ABOUT DRINKING AND DRIVING?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, 50% had consumed alcohol before the crash, compared to 12% of drivers in injury collisions. Nearly three in five of the drinking drivers were males under 35. Alcohol related casualty crashes were most likely to occur in the summer months during the evening and early morning hours. 53% of casualty collisions involving drinking drivers occurred in rural areas.

WHAT ABOUT SEAT BELTS?

The data shows that occupants who were using restraints at the time of the collision were injured less often (19%) than occupants who were not using restraints (38%). Occupants using a restraint reduce the likelihood of sustaining an injury and the severity of injury decreases. Visit <http://www.tc.gc.ca/roadsafety/stats/menu.htm#pqrs> for Transport Canada's latest seat belt use survey results.

WHAT ABOUT SPEEDING?

In 2007, 23% of drivers involved in casualty collisions were indicated by the police as having been travelling at a speed too great for the given conditions. None of the drivers in fatal collisions were travelling at unsafe speed. Provincially, 13% of drivers involved in casualty collisions and 28% of drivers in fatal collisions were travelling at an unsafe speed. (Note: Unsafe speed applies when the speed was too great under the given conditions [e.g. road, weather and light conditions, traffic density, etc.] Whether or not the driver exceeded a legal speed limit is irrelevant.)

WHAT ABOUT ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS?

In 2007, almost one third of casualty collisions occurred when surface conditions were dry. Almost half of casualty collisions occurred on a surface condition of snow, slush or ice. Almost three quarters of casualty collisions occurred during clear weather conditions.

DEMOGRAPHICS

	Region ⁵	Alberta
Drivers ¹	56,322	2,601,517
Vehicles ²	63,324	2,922,033
Population	100,000 ³	3,473,984 ⁴

¹Number of licensed drivers as of December 31, 2007 - Source: Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety

²Number of registered motorized vehicles as of December 31, 2007 - Source: Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety.

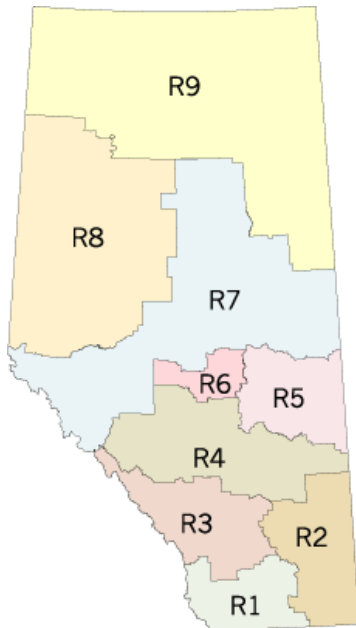
³Source: Northern Lights Health Region

<http://www.nlhr.ca/MeettheBoard/default.aspx>

⁴July 1, 2007 - Source: Stats Canada

⁵Demographics are for the entire Northern Lights region

WHERE ARE THE REGIONS?



Region 1 - Chinook Region

Region 2 - Palliser Region

Region 3 - Calgary Region

Region 4 - David Thompson Region

Region 5 - East Central Region

Region 6 - Capital Region

Region 7 - Aspen Region

Region 8 - Peace Country Region

Region 9 - Northern Lights Region