

ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS REGION 8 – Peace Country 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 Peace Country 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 8 – Peace Country Region

2007

WHAT HAPPENED ON PEACE COUNTRY'S ROADWAYS IN 2007?

During 2007...

- 62 people were killed as a result of traffic collisions.
- 1397 people were injured in traffic collisions
- A total of 7818 collisions occurred.

In 2007 approximately...

- One person was killed every 6 days.
- 4 people were injured daily.
- 21 traffic collisions were reported daily.

PEACE COUNTRY TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 2003-2007

Severity of Collision	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Fatal	49	40	33	28	25
Non-Fatal Injury	972	1033	880	799	792
Property Damage	6797	7596	5994	5078	5049
Total Reportable Collisions	7818	8669	6907	5905	5866
Number Killed	62	43	41	37	28
Number Injured	1397	1460	1255	1140	1172
Total Number of Casualties	1459	1503	1296	1177	1200

WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

Traffic Fatalities (%)		Traffic Injuries (%)	
51.6	Drivers	59.8	Drivers
17.7	Passengers	27.7	Passengers
9.7	Pedestrians	3.4	Pedestrians
1.6	Bicyclists	0.7	Bicyclists
4.8	Motorcyclists	3.2	Motorcyclists
14.5	Other road user class/unspecified	5.1	Other road user class/unspecified

SPECIAL ROAD USER CLASSES

Pedestrians

There were 50 casualty collisions involving pedestrians, resulting in 54 pedestrian casualties. Pedestrian collisions occur throughout the year and were most likely to occur during the afternoon in urban areas. Of pedestrians involved in casualty collisions, almost one quarter had consumed alcohol before the crash.

Motorcycles

There were 48 casualty collisions involving motorcycles. These collisions resulted in 48 motorcyclist casualties. Motorcycle collisions were more likely to occur during the summer months on Saturdays during the afternoon and evening in urban areas. One in thirteen motorcyclists had consumed alcohol before the crash. In casualty collisions, two in five motorcyclists made an improper driving action most commonly running off the road. Over four in five motorcyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Truck Tractors

In 2007, there were 81 casualty collisions involving truck tractors. Truck tractor collisions were likely to occur in December on Thursday during the afternoon. Four in five of these collisions were in rural areas. The most common error made by truck tractor drivers was running off the road. Truck tractor drivers were less likely to have consumed alcohol before a crash than all drivers.

Bicycles

There were 11 casualty collisions involving bicyclists, resulting in 11 bicyclist casualties. Collisions involving bicyclists tended to occur in summer and fall, on Fridays during the afternoon almost exclusively in urban areas. Two thirds of bicyclists in casualty collisions made an improper driving action, most commonly disobeying a traffic signal. None of the bicyclists had been drinking before the crash. Approximately one quarter of bicyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

WHEN DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

December saw the most fatal collisions. January recorded the highest number of injury and property damage collisions. 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?

Approximately 16% of fatal collisions and 32% of injury collisions occurred at intersections. More than half of all collisions occurred in urban areas. In 2007, the top three urban collision locations were Grande Prairie, Peace River and Fairview with 42%, 3% and 2% of total collisions, respectively.

Urban (%)		Rural (%)	
0.2	Fatal Collisions	1.2	Fatal Collisions
11.9	Injury Collisions	13.1	Injury Collisions
87.9	Property Damage Collisions	85.7	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	--	0.7
16-17	1.3	4.3
18-19	8.0	6.3
20-24	10.7	16.5
25-34	25.3	26.0
35-44	25.3	19.2
45-54	17.3	14.8
55-64	5.3	7.5
65+	6.7	4.6

WHAT DRIVER ACTIONS CONTRIBUTED TO CASUALTY COLLISIONS?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, more than half made an improper action that contributed to the collision. The most common driver error in fatal crashes was running off the road. Over two in five of the drivers in injury collisions committed an improper action; most commonly, following too closely.

WHAT ABOUT DRINKING AND DRIVING?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, 25% had consumed alcohol before the crash, compared to 5% of drivers in injury collisions. Over half of the drinking drivers were males under 35. Alcohol related casualty crashes were most likely to occur in the months of July and August on the weekends and during the evening and early morning hours. 62% 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 (12 %) than occupants who were not using restraints (47%). 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, 12% of drivers involved in casualty collisions were indicated by the police as having been travelling at a speed too great for the given conditions. However, 33% of 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, half of casualty collisions occurred when surface conditions were dry. Over one third of collisions occurred on a surface condition of snow, slush or ice. Three quarters of casualty collisions occurred during clear weather conditions.

DEMOGRAPHICS

	Region	Alberta
Drivers ¹	105,389	2,601,517
Vehicles ²	134,651	2,922,033
Population	143,000 ³	3,473,984 ⁴

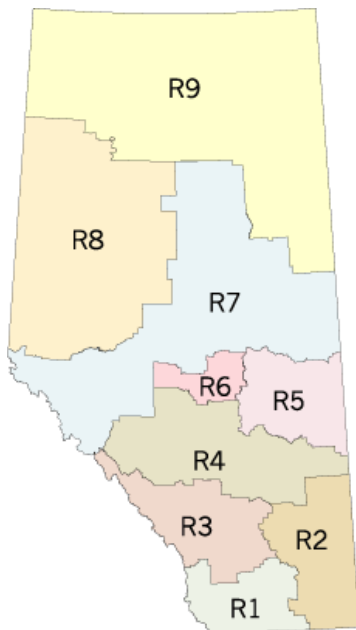
¹Number of licensed drivers as of December 31, 2007 - Source: Alberta Transportation, Office of Traffic Safety

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

³Source: Peace Country Health Region
<http://www.pchr.ca/Default.aspx?tabid=597>

⁴July 1, 2007 - Source: Stats Canada

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