

## **ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS REGION 7 – Aspen East 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 Aspen East 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](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/3121.htm).

# ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS

## REGION 7 – Aspen East Region

### 2007

#### WHAT HAPPENED ON ASPEN EAST'S ROADWAYS IN 2007?

##### During 2007...

- 36 people were killed as a result of traffic collisions.
- 805 people were injured in traffic collisions
- A total of 4673 collisions occurred.

##### In 2007 approximately...

- One person was killed every 10 days.
- 2 people were injured daily.
- 13 traffic collisions were reported daily.

#### ASPEN EAST TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 2003-2007

Severity of Collision	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Fatal	34	25	18	25	27
Non-Fatal Injury	511	486	481	500	415
Property Damage	4128	3871	3104	3014	2713
<b>Total Reportable Collisions</b>	<b>4673</b>	<b>4382</b>	<b>3603</b>	<b>3539</b>	<b>3155</b>
Number Killed	36	31	21	28	35
Number Injured	805	755	773	792	688
<b>Total Number of Casualties</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>723</b>

#### WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

Traffic Fatalities (%)		Traffic Injuries (%)	
63.9	Drivers	55.8	Drivers
19.4	Passengers	33.7	Passengers
13.9	Pedestrians	3.0	Pedestrians
--	Bicyclists	0.9	Bicyclists
--	Motorcyclists	2.0	Motorcyclists
2.8	Other road user class/unspecified	4.7	Other road user class/unspecified

#### SPECIAL ROAD USER CLASSES

##### Pedestrians

There were 25 casualty collisions involving pedestrians, resulting in 29 pedestrian casualties. Pedestrian collisions occur throughout the year and were most likely to occur during the evening in urban areas. Of pedestrians involved in casualty collisions, one fifth had consumed alcohol before the crash.

##### Motorcycles

There were 14 casualty collisions involving motorcycles. These collisions resulted in 16 motorcyclist casualties. Motorcycle collisions were more likely to occur during the summer months throughout the week during the afternoon and evening in rural areas. One in eleven 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. Approximately four fifths of motorcyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

##### Truck Tractors

In 2007, there were 37 casualty collisions involving truck tractors. Truck tractor collisions were likely to occur any month, any day during the afternoon. Almost all of these collisions were in rural areas. The most common errors made by truck tractor drivers was running off the road and following too closely. Truck tractor drivers were less likely to have consumed alcohol before a crash than all drivers.

##### Bicycles

There were seven casualty collisions involving bicyclists, resulting in seven bicyclist casualties. Collisions involving bicyclists occurred exclusively in urban areas. None of the bicyclists had been drinking before the crash. None of bicyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

## WHEN DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

July, October and December saw the most fatal collisions. January recorded the highest number of injury collisions. The highest number of property damage collisions occurred during November. 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?

Nearly 9% of fatal collisions and over 16% of injury collisions occurred at intersections. Almost two thirds of all collisions occurred in rural areas. In 2007, the top three urban collision locations were Cold Lake, Bonnyville and Slave Lake with 10%, 6% and 5% of total collisions, respectively.

Urban (%)		Rural (%)	
0.2	Fatal Collisions	1.0	Fatal Collisions
8.7	Injury Collisions	12.3	Injury Collisions
91.1	Property Damage Collisions	86.7	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	--	1.3
16-17	1.9	4.7
18-19	1.9	4.7
20-24	9.4	16.0
25-34	13.2	24.6
35-44	30.2	18.1
45-54	20.8	14.4
55-64	11.3	8.9
65+	11.3	7.2

## 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. 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, 27% had consumed alcohol before the crash, compared to 12% of drivers in injury collisions. Almost half of the drinking drivers were males under 35. Alcohol related casualty crashes were most likely to occur in the months of July on the weekends and during the evening and early morning hours. 67% 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 (22%) than occupants who were not using restraints (66%). 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, 17% 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, 19% 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, over half of casualty collisions occurred when surface conditions were dry. Almost one in three collisions occurred on a surface condition of snow, slush or ice. Over three quarters of casualty collisions occurred during clear weather conditions.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

	Region <sup>5</sup>	Alberta
<b>Drivers</b> <sup>1</sup>	132,066	2,601,517
<b>Vehicles</b> <sup>2</sup>	168,255	2,922,033
<b>Population</b>	184,000 <sup>3</sup>	3,473,984 <sup>4</sup>

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

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

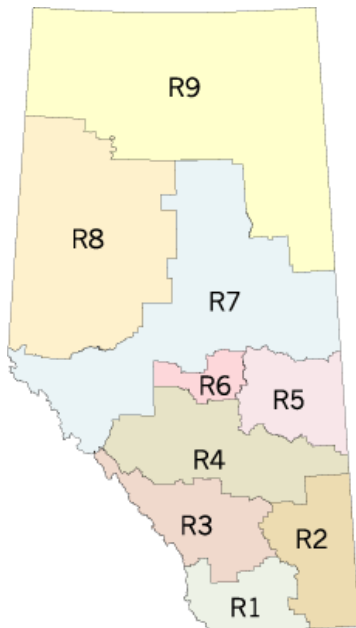
<sup>3</sup>Source: Aspen Health Region

<http://www.aspenrha.ab.ca/Default.aspx?cid=50&lang=1>

<sup>4</sup>July 1, 2007 - Source: Stats Canada

<sup>5</sup>Demographics are for the entire Aspen 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