

ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS REGION 9 – Northern Lights 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 Northern Lights 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.

ALBERTA TRAFFIC COLLISION FACTS

REGION 9 – Northern Lights East Region

2007

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

During 2007...

- 22 people were killed as a result of traffic collisions.
- 412 people were injured in traffic collisions
- A total of 3160 collisions occurred.

In 2007 approximately...

- One person was killed every 17 days.
- 1 person was injured daily.
- 9 traffic collisions were reported daily.

NORTHERN LIGHTS EAST TRAFFIC COLLISIONS 2003-2007

Severity of Collision	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Fatal	18	12	11	4	4
Non-Fatal Injury	303	320	261	269	251
Property Damage	2839	2272	2044	1653	1524
Total Reportable Collisions	3160	2604	2316	1926	1779
Number Killed	22	14	11	4	5
Number Injured	412	417	365	400	378
Total Number of Casualties	434	431	376	404	383

WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

Traffic Fatalities (%)		Traffic Injuries (%)	
59.1	Drivers	55.1	Drivers
22.7	Passengers	29.1	Passengers
9.1	Pedestrians	5.1	Pedestrians
4.5	Bicyclists	1.2	Bicyclists
4.5	Motorcyclists	4.9	Motorcyclists
--	Other road user class/unspecified	4.6	Other road user class/unspecified

SPECIAL ROAD USER CLASSES

Pedestrians

There were 22 casualty collisions involving pedestrians, resulting in 23 pedestrian casualties. Pedestrian collisions occur throughout the year and were most likely to occur during the afternoon rush hour in urban areas. Of pedestrians involved in casualty collisions, one in twenty had consumed alcohol before the crash.

Motorcycles

There were 20 casualty collisions involving motorcycles. These collisions resulted in 21 motorcyclist casualties. Motorcycle collisions were more likely to occur during the summer months on the weekend during the afternoon and evening in urban areas. Approximately one in eight motorcyclists had consumed alcohol before the crash. In casualty collisions, half of motorcyclists made an improper driving action; most commonly running off the road and making an improper turn. More than four in five motorcyclists were wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

Truck Tractors

In 2007, there were 19 casualty collisions involving truck tractors. Truck tractor collisions were likely to occur in winter during the week in the afternoon. More than half of these collisions were in urban areas. Truck tractor drivers were less likely to have consumed alcohol before a crash than all drivers.

Bicycles

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

WHEN DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

November saw the most fatal collisions. January recorded the highest number of injury collisions. The highest number of property damage collisions occurred during January. There were more collisions on Monday than any other day of the week. The afternoon rush-hour period accounted for the highest number of crashes.

WHERE DID THE COLLISIONS OCCUR?

Over 11% of fatal collisions and nearly 33% of injury collisions occurred at intersections. Over three quarters of all collisions occurred in urban areas. In 2007, the top urban collision location was Fort McMurray with 77.4% of the collisions.

Urban (%)		Rural (%)	
0.2	Fatal Collisions	1.8	Fatal Collisions
8.0	Injury Collisions	15.7	Injury Collisions
91.8	Property Damage Collisions	82.4	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	--	1.0
16-17	--	3.4
18-19	2.9	3.9
20-24	17.1	18.3
25-34	17.1	23.9
35-44	20.0	22.7
45-54	25.7	17.4
55-64	17.1	7.1
65+	--	2.2

WHAT DRIVER ACTIONS CONTRIBUTED TO CASUALTY COLLISIONS?

Of drivers involved in fatal collisions, two in five made an improper action that contributed to the collision. The most common driver error in fatal crashes was driving left of center. Almost half 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, 13% had consumed alcohol before the crash, compared to 7% of drivers in injury collisions. Almost three in five drinking drivers were males under 35. Alcohol related casualty crashes occurred throughout the year throughout the week during the evening and early morning hours. 57% of casualty collisions involving drinking drivers occurred in urban areas.

WHAT ABOUT SEAT BELTS?

The data shows that occupants who were using restraints at the time of the collision were injured less often (7 %) than occupants who were not using restraints (44%). 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, 18% 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, 23% 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, almost half of casualty collisions occurred when surface conditions were dry. Over one in three 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.

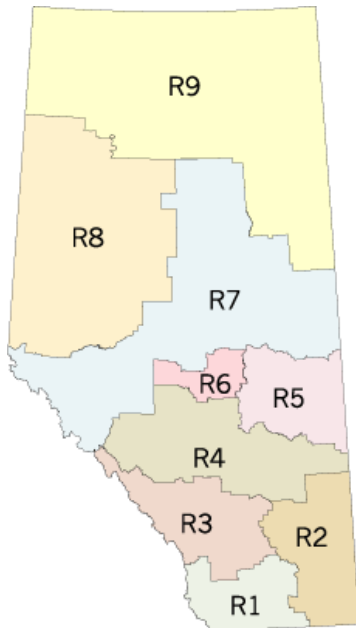
³Source: Northern Lights Health Region

<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