






Large Ungulates Fact Sheet

Working Around Moose, Elk, Deer, Caribou and Bison





Season	Signs of Animals Present	Stress Signs	Defensive Attacks	What to Do in Case of an Encounter
Fall means rutting season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulls/bucks more aggressive Ready to protect harem/mate Spring means birthing season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cows/does ready to protect young 	Look for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wallow pits Antler scrapes Tracks Scat Listen for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocalizations (grunts, bellowing, coughing) Fighting/stomping Antler rubbing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ears back Snorting Pawing ground Stomping Hairs raised on neck Staring Head down <p>If you see stress signs, find an escape route.</p>	Occur if an animal feels you are threatening its: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Territory Food, Or if an animal is trapped or cornered. Characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick with front legs Use horns or antlers Stomp with front feet 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do not approach the animal. Stay calm and back away. Look for something solid to hide behind/in, like a tree or a rock. Stay behind the rock or in the tree until the animal loses interest. When the animal moves a safe distance away, leave the area. Report the incident to your supervisor and to your local wildlife agency.






Driving Collisions with Moose, Elk, Deer, Caribou or Bison

Key Facts	Animals and Roadways	Safe Driving Practices to Avoid Collisions	What to Do in Case of a Collision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collisions can be fatal Thousands yearly Most collisions occur at dusk or dawn More collisions occur during the rut (November has the highest rate of collisions) 	Animals are attracted to roadways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy routes for migration Winter/spring: salt source This means risk of collision increases with more animals in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean windshield Seatbelt fastened Headlights on (high beams where possible) Scan roadway and ditches for eye reflections If you see one animal, expect others Slow down, especially at wildlife crossings Be especially careful at dusk, dawn and during rutting season 	If a collision is unavoidable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay on the road: do not swerve into the other lane or off the road Brake firmly Keep hands on the steering wheel Come to a controlled stop After the collision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazard lights on Reflective vest on Check car for damage Notify supervisor Get help if necessary Only move the animal off the road if you are certain it's dead Report incident to wildlife agency Leave the animal at the scene



Animal	Identification	Habitat	Characteristics	Behavior	Helpful Links
Moose		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rocky wooded hillsides - Lakes, muskeg - Tundra - Aspen parkland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dark brown to blackish coat - Long legs - 2.5 m at the shoulder - Bulls: antlers - 350 – 500 kg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grazers - Solitary - Rut: September to November - Bulls aggressive during rut - Cows very protective of calves - Calves born in May – June 	http://www.hww.ca/assets/pdfs/factsheets/moose-en.pdf
Elk (Wapiti)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mountainous areas - Coastal old growth rainforests - Grassy interior valleys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1.5 m at the shoulder - 300 – 350 kg - Bulls: antlers - Dark brown head and neck with mane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grazers - Migratory - Travel in herds - Rut: September to mid-October - “Bugle” in rutting season - Cows very protective of calves - Calves born in May – June 	http://www.hww.ca/en/wildlife/mammals/north-american-elk.html
Caribou (SARA)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three subspecies - Peary Caribou: Northern Canada only - Barren-ground Caribou: 50% of caribou population in Canada, tundra - Woodland Caribou: northern forests from BC to NL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both males and females carry antlers - Peary: small (70 kg), light (almost white) coat - Barren-ground: larger, darker coat - Woodland: largest and darkest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grazers - Migratory (up to 4 migrations each year) - Travel in herds - Rut: fall - Calves born May – June - Unlikely to attack humans unless cornered 	http://www.hww.ca/assets/pdfs/factsheets/caribou-en.pdf
Wood Bison		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North West Territories - Sedge meadows - Lakeshores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North America’s largest land mammal - 500 – 1000 kg - 2 m at the shoulder - Shoulder hump - Shaggy dark brown coat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grazers - Travel in herds - Migratory - Bulls aggressive during rut - May protect or abandon calf in face of danger 	http://www.hww.ca/assets/pdfs/factsheets/north-american-bison-en.pdf
Deer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two most common species: - Mule Deer - White-Tailed Deer - Widespread of all of Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White-Tailed: all over Canada, most numerous, white tail underside - Mule: Western Canada only, tail is black tipped - 110 – 200 kg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grazers - Travel in herds - Rut: fall until November - Does very protective of fawns - Fawns born May – June 	http://www.hww.ca/assets/pdfs/factsheets/white-tailed-deer-en.pdf


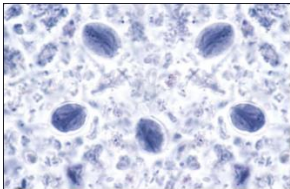

Noxious Plants, Insects and Snakes Fact Sheet

	Identification	Habitat	Symptoms	Treatment	PPE/Avoiding Contact
Noxious Plants	 <p>Poison Ivy</p>  <p>Stinging Nettle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Western Canada - Thickets in borders of forests - Edges of beaches - Can be trailing or climbing vine (poison ivy) - In ditches (stinging nettle) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severe itching - Sap causes rash - Red and inflamed - May blister - Oozing sores - Watch for infection - Rash lasts 24 – 48 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wash with soap and cold water - Calamine lotion - If severe, see First Aid attendant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pants and long sleeves - Gloves - Sap transfers easily from clothing to skin - Be careful when taking off clothes that contacted poison ivy - Let coworkers know where you saw it
Insects	 <p>Bees, Wasps and Hornets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Widespread - June – July 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sting: pain, burning, red ring/bump, localized swelling - Some people are allergic - Anaphylaxis: hives, wheezing, swelling, abdominal cramps, low blood pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove stinger - Wash with soap and water - Ice pack - Can apply a wet tea bag, anti-itch medication <p>In case of anaphylaxis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EpiPen - Oral antihistamine to slow symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insect spray with DEET - Light colored, loose clothing, maybe netting - Long sleeves and pants - Avoid nesting sites - Report nest locations to supervisor - Avoid scented products
Ticks	 <p>Ticks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tall grass - March – June - May carry Lyme disease - Live on blood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tick attaches to skin and stays there (for days to weeks) - Bite may be red and ringed at site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove tick carefully - Use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible - Pull up with steady pressure (don't twist or jerk) - Clean bite area with alcohol/iodine - Dispose of tick: submerge in alcohol, wrap in tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long pants (tucked in) and long sleeves - Walk in pairs, check each other for ticks as you walk

<p>Spiders and Scorpions</p>	 <p>Black Widow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SW Canada - Only bites if web disturbed - Sheltered, dimly lit areas - Stumps, woodpiles, burrows - April – October 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Venomous - Pain at site of bite - Muscle cramps - Pain, chills, fever, nausea, vomiting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek medical attention immediately - Identify the spider, note its location - Collect sample of spider and bring to hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gloves - Pants and long sleeves - Tuck sleeves in, pants into socks - Brush spider away if it's on clothes - Be prepared and know habitat
	 <p>Wolf Spider</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BC and SW Alberta - Light to mid brown - Live at ground level - Wood or debris - Air vents - Funnel-shaped web 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hard red bump - Blister, may open to ulcer - Risk of infection - Risk of necrosis - Numb, tingling headache - Dry mouth - Nausea, weakness, dizziness - Joint pain - Hallucinations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek medical attention immediately - Identify the spider, note its location - Collect sample of spider and bring to hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gloves - Pants and long sleeves - Tuck sleeves in, pants into socks - Brush spider away if it's on clothes - Be prepared and know habitat
	 <p>Northern Scorpion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small and shy, delicate - Dry eroded riverbanks - Southern AB (Dinosaur Provincial Park, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat) - Okanagan - Nocturnal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intense immediate pain - Swelling and itching - Change in skin color - Nausea and vomiting - Anxiety, drowsiness - Tongue numbness - Increased blood pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek medical attention immediately - Remove jewelry (e.g. wedding band) - Ice sting site - Take Tylenol (acetaminophen) - DO NOT take Advil (ibuprofen) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wear work boots and pants tucked in - Leave scorpions alone - Be aware when in their territory
<p>Snakes: Prairie Rattlesnake (AB), Northern Pacific Rattlesnake (BC)</p> <p>**Note: the bullsnake looks similar and imitates rattlesnakes by shaking its tail against the ground; although it is aggressive, it is not poisonous.</p>	 <p>Prairie Rattlesnake</p> <p>Protected species – SARA applies</p>  <p>Bull Snake</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alberta and BC - Brown/tan/olive/grey - Diamond pattern, broad head - Dry, rocky, rugged land - March – May (hibernate) - Dens in rocky outcrops, old dens of other animals - AT RISK: protected species with shrinking habitat - Do not destroy dens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Severe burning pain at site - Swelling at site (spreads) - Fang can break off and remain in tissue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek medical attention immediately - Report bite to your supervisor - Lie down and stay quiet - Do not cut the bite site - Call Poison Control to ID the snake - Take off jewelry <p>If a doctor is over an hour away:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tie a band/cloth 5 – 10 cm above bite - Fit 2 fingers under band - Make sure band not too tight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listen for the rattle - Don't provoke - Give snakes a wide berth - Boots to mid-calf - Be cautious and alert when climbing rocks - Look before putting hands in crevices, holes - Be aware of foot placement (logs and rocks)

Zoonose Fact Sheet

	Transmission	Symptoms	Treatment	Prevention
West Nile Virus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infected mosquitoes (through saliva) - Not transmitted human-to-human or animal-to-human 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mild or no symptoms - If symptoms present, then flu-like (fever, head and body aches) - In extreme cases: encephalitis (stiff neck, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek medical attention - IV, respiratory support, antibiotics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid mosquito bites - Long sleeves and pants - Nets - Tuck pants into boots - Use insect repellent with DEET (<30%) - Avoid working at dusk and dawn - Reduce mosquito breeding grounds: get rid of standing water
Hantavirus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carried by deer mice - Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) - 38% of cases fatal - Breathe in tiny airborne particles with mouse urine or saliva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 week incubation period - Headache, chills, nausea, vomiting, difficulty breathing - Leads to pulmonary edema, then death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospitalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be aware of mice nesting areas and droppings - Report droppings to supervisor - HEPA mask - Rubber gloves - Eye protection - Boots - Soak contaminated material (1:10 bleach solution) - Decrease nesting by controlling garbage, keeping grass short, setting rodent traps
Lyme Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carried by ticks (deer and wood ticks) - Tick habitat: tall grass and woods - Increased risk May – June, but risk all summer - Increased chance of Lyme disease if tick on body over 24 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stage 1: flu-like symptoms; some people experience an expanding circular red rash - Lasts 1 – 4 weeks - Stage 2: large organs affected; fatigue, pain, paralysis of facial nerves - Lasts 1 – 4 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need antibiotics early on - Untreated Lyme disease can cause long-term disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid ticks - Remove ticks ASAP - Report tick sightings to supervisor - If bitten, remove tick and bring it with you to hospital to help ID species for accurate treatment - Long sleeves and pants - Tuck pants into boots

<p>Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carried by Rocky Mountain wood ticks - High risk April – September 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symptoms occur 2 – 14 days after bite - Flu-like, nausea, lack of appetite; hard to diagnose - 3 – 5 days in: skin rash with small flat pink spots that rise and turn red later on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek medical attention - Need antibiotics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid ticks - Remove ticks ASAP - Report tick sightings to supervisor - If bitten, remove tick and bring it with you to hospital to help ID species for accurate treatment - Long sleeves and pants - Tuck pants into boots
<p>Giardia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giardiasis - Parasite in feces in water (cysts) - Can be spread human-to-human (poor hygiene) - “Beaver fever” - Risk if drinking untreated water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can have no or mild symptoms and still pass on to others - Diarrhea, cramps, tenderness, nausea, loss of appetite, bloating, fatigue, vomiting, flu-like - Symptoms can last a month or be chronic (episodes of diarrhea) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek medical attention - Requires medication to kill parasite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treat all water - Boil drinking water, water for cooking, for ice, etc. - Rinse dishes with treated water
<p>Rabies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fox, bat, raccoons, skunks, dogs - Rare in Canada - Carried in saliva, brain and spinal fluid - Transferred via bite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last 2 weeks to months - Tingling, pain, weakness - Heightened senses - Excessive saliva, difficulty swallowing - Eventual paralysis and death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek medical attention - Bite: clean and flush wound, use antiseptic - Immunization after contact (or prior if going into a high risk area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid animals acting strangely - Be aware of nocturnal animals active in daytime hours - Reportable disease (required by law): report suspect animal to wildlife authorities