

Safety Bulletin

Issue # 02-2026

ENERGY
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Tick Safety and Awareness

Oil and gas workers should be aware of heightened tick activity across Western Canada in 2026. Many work activities are performed in remote, rural and vegetated environments including rights-of-way, well sites, pipelines, lease roads and reclamation areas where exposure to ticks is more likely.

Workers conducting inspections, maintenance, environmental monitoring, construction and vegetation management are particularly at risk when working in tall grass, brush and wooded areas.

Tick reports increase in 2026

Recent eTick surveillance data indicate a substantial increase in tick reports compared to 2025:

- Alberta: +71.5%
- Saskatchewan: +53.2%
- Manitoba: +108.9%
- Ontario: +50.2%

These increases suggest a higher likelihood that workers will encounter ticks in the field. As tick populations continue to expand and become more active, workers should take precautions to prevent tick bites and know how to recognize and respond to potential exposures.

Tick-related health risks

Black-legged ticks (deer ticks) can transmit serious illnesses, including:

- Lyme Disease: Can lead to severe health complications if untreated
- Babesiosis: A rare, malaria-like illness that can be severe for older adults or individuals with weakened immune systems

If you find a tick

Ticks often attach in warm, hidden areas of the body. Pay close attention to:

- Behind knees
- Under arms
- Around ears
- Scalp and hairline
- Waist and groin area

How to remove a tick

- Remove the tick immediately using fine-tipped tweezers
- Grasp close to the skin and pull straight out—avoid twisting
- Clean the bite area with soap and water or antiseptic
- Dispose of the tick safely
- Monitor for symptoms over the following weeks
- Regularly check pets and gear for ticks



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Reduce your risk of tick exposure

- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Tuck pants into socks or boots
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET or Icaridin
- Stay on cleared and maintained paths
- Shower promptly after outdoor work or activities
- Perform thorough full-body tick checks
- Dry clothing on high heat for at least 10 minutes

Watch for symptoms

Lyme Disease

- Bullseye rash
- Fever or chills
- Headache and fatigue
- Muscle and joint pain
- Swollen lymph nodes

Babesiosis

- Fever and chills
- Sweating
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite



When to seek medical attention

Consult a healthcare provider if:

- You develop any symptoms listed above
- A rash appears at the bite site
- You are unsure how long the tick was attached

Stay Alert! Early prevention and detection are key to reducing the risk of tick-borne illness

Resources

- [Lyme Disease | Government of Alberta](#)
- [Submit a Tick Program | Government of Alberta](#)
- [Canada's Tick Reports Surge in 2026: A Province-by-Province Guide to Lyme Disease Risk, Prevention, and Removal – Refdesk.ca](#)
- [Ticks: What You Need to Know | Alberta Animal Health Resource](#)