

5.3 Health and Safety Committee examines accident/incident or near miss and workplace hazard forms, the committee then discusses what should be done to correct the hazardous condition, if it was/is the appropriate action to take, and the condition of the site at present time. The committee endeavors to identify root causes of the incident to ensure actions remove or reduce the chances of reoccurrence.

6.0 Optimize emergency response, acute care and rehabilitation services to those who are affected by injury.

6.1 Red Deer County has contracted its ambulance service out to Guardian Ambulance Service and the City of Red Deer's Emergency Services. Each is committed to strict standards with regard to response times and practices. These providers have Emergency response, acute care, and rehabilitation programs, in conjunction with the DTHR. The facilities available are able to provide comprehensive injury assessments, acute hospital care, and quality rehabilitative care to those persons injured.

6.2 Red Deer County has developed an Emergency Preparedness Policy to respond to emergency situations in the County and an explication of its capabilities at present time.

6.3 The County, in collaboration with Emergency Management Alberta, Clearwater County, the Town of Lacombe, and the DTHR has developed a plan for dealing with the possibility of Influenza pandemic. In addition, Red Deer County has initiated a business continuity planning strategy that will aid in delivering services to County residents in the event of a major business disruption (i.e. complete infrastructure breakdown, pandemic, major fire at the county office, etc.)

7.0 Strengthen partnerships among injury control stakeholders.

7.1 Collaboration with DTHR, Emergency Management Alberta, Clearwater County, and the Town of Lacombe in developing pandemic influenza preparedness plan for the municipality.

7.2 Red Deer County has mutual aid agreements with other neighboring municipalities. These agreements state that if one municipality is in need of help, other municipalities will come to their aid (with some limited exceptions).

7.3 Red Deer County is a member of the Safe Communities Coalition of Central Alberta.

7.4 *Continual efforts to create and maintain partnerships in the county and beyond, these partnerships could include injury control stakeholders.*

FROM OUR HEALTH AND SAFETY MANUAL

(Policy 1.1) The purpose of health and safety policy, here at Red Deer County is, "...to protect employees, contractors, visitors, and the environment, the County has established policies and procedures through hazard identification to eliminate, or minimize, hazards set out in the Safe Work Practices and Job Procedures section of the Red Deer County Health and Safety Manual."

It is believed by Red Deer County that "hazard identification and control is essential to an effective injury and illness prevention plan" (policy 4.4). Furthermore, we feel it is important to have the worker's involvement in identifying hazards as they often have answers to questions relevant to the prioritization of each hazard. Corrective action should be identified in terms of not only how it will prevent a re-occurrence of the accident or near miss, but also how it will improve the overall operation.

Safe work practices, here at Red Deer County, "are ways of controlling hazards with a minimum of risk to people and property." (Policy 6.1) The policies and practices reduce the risk of unintentional injury to employees, contractors, and ratepayers dealing with items or situations, which could potentially be injurious. These safe work practices stipulate proper clothing for field work, steps that should be taken in a fire and use of a fire extinguisher, proper procedures for working with ladders, office safety, transportation of dangerous goods, and how defective tools and equipment should be dealt with, among other situations. In all, there are 31 safe work practice sections in the Health and Safety Manual; these are all aimed at preventing unintentional and intentional injuries to employees, contractors, and visitors in the workplace.

Red Deer County

**38106 Rge Rd 275
Red Deer County, AB
T4S 2L9**

**Phone: 403.350.2150
Fax: 403.350.2164**

**A Great Place to Live,
Work, and Grow**

Red Deer County

**Injury Control
Strategy**



Red Deer County

Alberta Injury Control Strategy and Alliance

The leading cause of death for Albertans 44 and under is injury and injury related complications. As Alberta has the highest instance of injury in Canada, the Alberta Injury Control Alliance (AICA) has taken on the arduous task of mitigating these circumstances for all Albertans. The main aim of the Alliance is to create awareness of the Alberta Injury Control Strategy (AICS) amongst stakeholders in Alberta. The Strategy is intended to effectively address injuries and their causes, in an effort to reduce the total numbers of Albertans injured intentionally or unintentionally each year. The Alberta Injury Control Strategy (AICS) document was finished in the Spring of 2003. It includes five recommendations seen as key to the successful implementation of the Strategy.



The recommendations are: enhance provincial coordination and collaboration, develop and sell the business case, develop an implementation plan, facilitate stakeholder development of injury control plans, monitor implementation and report progress. The AICS Advisory committee recommended seeking broad community, regional and provincial multistakeholder participation and support. The information as follows relays how Red Deer County is an active member of the Alberta Injury Control Alliance and has followed the strategies outlined by the AICS document. This Pamphlet will explain and show how Red Deer County has been meeting the requirements of AICS and AICA.

Red Deer County, a safe place to live, work, and grow.

It is the aim of Red Deer County to promote the safety of its residents; this is achieved by way of specific seminars on safety, injury prevention and day activities organized to educate residents and their children. Specifically, Red Deer County provides that residents have tools to maintain a safe environment for themselves and others who reside in Red Deer County. Injury prevention is everyone's responsibility.

Red Deer County Injury Control Strategies:

1.0 Increase the awareness and commitment of Albertans to Injury Prevention

1.1 Red Deer County Crime Prevention is currently utilizing the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program. This program is intended to reduce crime through architecture, landscaping, and lighting. Crime always has the potential to be violent, and thus, when one reduces the incidence of crime one is also preventing possible injury. Over 370 business and homes consulted to date.

1.2 Red Deer County has the Fire Smart program, which assesses fire hazards existing in the proximity to resident's dwellings. The Fire Smart assessments are complimentary for residents in Red Deer County and increase the safety of those in high-risk (fire) areas.

1.3 Fire inspections are also available for Red Deer County commercial and industrial properties. Fire Services also has fire prevention activities throughout the year; these activities include (but are not limited to) displays, school talks, and home safety visits.

1.4 Red Deer County Patrol, in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, performs vehicle checks for seatbelt use. Furthermore, the David Thompson Health Region (DTHR) also participates in such initiatives and ensures residents are using child safety seats correctly and appropriately. This program has been in existence for the past 4 years and occurs in May through to September of each year.

1.5 County Patrol is also involved in Bicycle Safety Rodeos. The Rodeos consist of teaching safe operation of bicycles to children. They are held upon request—the average being one Rodeo per year for the last 3 years. County Patrol also partakes in school talks that pertain to bullying, bike safety and other injury prevention topics. Additionally, Red Deer County is an active supporter (in both financing and participation) of the Rural Crime Watch organizations

1.6 In the winter season, County Patrol partakes in educational programs aimed at snowmobile safety. This includes education through enforcement and is done on a continual basis in the season.

1.7 Agricultural Services section of Red Deer County is active in promoting farm safety. Community Ag Talk Seminars (CATS) have been held annually from 2003. Topics include 'Safe Livestock Handling,' 'First on the Scene Safety Course for Farm Families,' and 'What you need to know about West Nile.' The Ag Service Board Program, an affiliate board of Red Deer County, sponsors these programs.

1.8 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) provides First Aid /CPR, Baby Sitting Certification and Home Alone courses to county residents on a regular basis (for nominal fee). Furthermore, FCSS is involved in child find identification clinics, within the county, and has held these clinics from 2004 onwards.

2.0 Promote the development and enforcement of healthy public policies and legislation aimed at injury prevention

2.1 The Alberta Chamber of Commerce and the WCB in the 2006 Alberta Business Awards of Distinction have recognized RDC. RDC was nominated as one of three organizations in the WCB Alberta Work safe Award in the category of 'Safety Leader.' The award Recognizes organizations that have effective injury prevention and disability management programs that lead its industry. In 2006, RDC was selected to receive the 'Work Safe Alberta 2005 Best Safety Performer Award' for exceptional performance in workplace health and safety. Of Alberta's 128,000 employers, 350 earned the award.

2.2 Safety is a chief concern of Red Deer County. All county staff dealing with hazardous materials receives WHMIS, Transportation of Dangerous Goods instruction and certification. All staff receives First Aid/CPR/AED training.

2.3 Those employees required to operate a County vehicle receive Defensive Driver Training.

2.4 New employees receive a comprehensive general and duty specific orientation. During and after training, the new staff member shall not proceed with any job or task if she/he is uncertain of how to properly and safely do the work. (Also as part of Red Deer County's General Safety Rules employees may refuse to perform duties that are deemed unsafe, or if they feel uncomfortable with the task at hand.)

3.0 Build and sustain the capacity and capability to deliver effective injury prevention programs. Per capita grants, budget etc.

3.1 Red Deer County has 12 Recreation and Culture boards which receive financial support from the municipality; within that, funding initiatives can be brought up and possibly be given funding as the recreation and culture boards see fit. The types of programs funded are obviously formatted to the wants and needs of each specific community within Red Deer County.

3.2 Funds for safety and injury prevention training are allocated annually. Each department is responsible for determining the demand and subsequent financial need for such programs each year.

4.0 Increase availability of and access to comprehensive provincial injury surveillance data.

4.1 Red Deer County is required to report any injuries to the Workers' Compensation Board. The Board uses this information to provide statistics, reports and other literature on safe-work practices. Also whenever there is an incident/accident or a near miss in the workplace, reports are filled out and are investigated by the Human Resources manager and Health and Safety Committee. Those who may be interested could request to see the minutes from Health and Safety meetings. Red Deer County believes in transparent governance, which includes providing information to the public about in-house practices.

5.0 Increase research and program evaluation on injury causes, injury programs and practices.

5.1 Human Resources manager launches formal investigation into instances of injury or near-misses and works to correct the problem(s).

Red Deer County

38106 Rge Rd 275
Red Deer County, AB
T4S 2L9

Phone: 403.350.2150
Fax: 403.350.2164