

LAWS AND GUIDELINES FOR SUMMER SAFETY IN DAVID THOMPSON COUNTRY



**DAVID
THOMPSON
COUNTRY**
CHALLENGE YOUR
INNER EXPLORER

David Thompson Country has a variety of wilderness, water and wildlife to enjoy. The following are some of the laws and guidelines so that you and many others can enjoy David Thompson Country for years to come.

Camping

- Campers can camp at one location to a maximum of 14 days. This applies to all public lands, Provincial Recreation Areas, and Provincial Parks.
- Random camping is not permitted within 1 kilometre of a provincial road, a camping facility, provincial park or provincial recreation area boundary.
- Do not camp on active oil or gas well sites or compressor station sites.
- It is recommended that you do not camp within 50 metres of a trail.
- Camp at least 60 metres from water. All toilet facilities, waste water disposal and fuel storage should be located at least 100 metres from lakes, rivers, and streams.
- In areas without toilets, use a portable latrine and pack out your waste if possible. Otherwise, make a cat-hole latrine (20 cm deep) that naturally decomposes human waste. All toilets and waste water pits should be filled with soil and leveled when you vacate your campsite.
- Avoid washing in streams and lakes. Detergents, soap and toothpaste are harmful to fish and other aquatic life. Scatter all wash water so that it filters through the soil.
- Never leave a campfire unattended. Make sure the fire is out and cold to the touch before retiring for the night and before leaving camp. Soak it thoroughly and stir it – then soak it again.
- Do not bury your fire as the embers can continue to smolder and can re-emerge as a wildfire.
- Garbage should always be packed out of the backcountry, never buried. Wildlife can easily find and dig up old garbage pits, even in winter. Once accustomed to human food, these animals may become a problem for future visitors.
- Never feed wildlife. This practice can upset the natural balance of the food chain. Leftovers may carry harmful bacteria. Large carnivores such as bears and wolves can become dangerous once fed.
- When you leave, do not leave any refuse behind. Items regularly found in camping spots at the end of summer include diapers, nails from pallets, containers, plastic bags, abandoned couches, broken bottles, cigarette butts, broken camp chairs, burnt tents, just to name a few...



OHV

- Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) can include quads, off-road motorcycles, snowmobiles, dune buggies, jeeps, and other specialty vehicles.
- All OHVs on public land require a headlight, a tail light and a functional muffler and spark arrestor.
- All OHVs on public land must be insured and registered, regardless of engine size. Licence plates must be attached and visible at the front or rear of the vehicle. Failure to produce insurance or registration documents could result in a fine.
- A person younger than 14 years of age may drive an OHV with an adult supervising from either the ground or on another OHV in close proximity.
- OHVs cannot be driven on provincial highways, even if they are dirt or gravel, or their adjacent ditches.
- In Clearwater County OHVs can ride on County roads, but not in the ditches.
- Stay on designated or established trails. This is also true if you need to cross any bodies of water.
- Wash your OHV regularly at a commercial car wash or your home. DO NOT wash your OHV in a stream, creek or lake.



New Helmet Law for OHVs

As of May 15, 2017, helmets are required for anyone driving, operating, riding in or on, or being towed by, an OHV. An OHV is any motorized vehicle built for cross-country travel, including:

- * dirt bikes, motorcycles, mini-bikes and related 2-wheel vehicles
 - * all-terrain vehicles (ATVs)
 - * utility terrain vehicles
 - * miniature motor vehicles
 - * amphibious vehicles
 - * snow vehicles, including snowmobiles and snow bikes
- Helmets are not required in vehicles that:
 - * have manufacturer installed rollover protective structures and seat belts, which have not been modified and are being properly worn
 - * meet standards for motor vehicles designed for use on a roadway and has seat belts. (e.g., unmodified 4x4 trucks, SUVs and jeeps)
 - OHV safety helmets must comply with the same standards that exist for motorcycle helmets.



Water

- Naturally occurring, or surface water (streams, ponds, lakes) should be treated before it is used for drinking or cleaning because germs can get into surface water from soil or human or animal feces. If you are camping in the wilderness, you should bring water with you or treat the water that you find in a stream, lake or pond to make it safe.
- When using a watercraft wearing a life jacket is highly recommended for all ages, and having a lifejacket within reach while in a small watercraft is mandatory.
- Don't go into the water alone.
- Be careful of running water. Streams or rivers can easily make someone lose their footing and carry them away.
- Rivers, streams and many lakes are fed directly from melting snow and ice making them very cold. Be aware that hypothermia can hit quickly when immersed in these cold waters for even a couple of minutes.
- Alberta waters are at risk of becoming infested with Aquatic Invasive Species. If you're traveling with a boat, you must Clean, Drain and Dry all equipment before departing.

Wildlife is Wild!

- Wildlife may look tame but they're not. They are wild animals. Be cautious no matter when or where you see wildlife.
- Give Wildlife Space. Keep at least three bus lengths (30 metres/100 feet) away from large animals. Keep about three times that distance (100 metres/325 feet) away from bears.
- In campgrounds and day-use areas, never leave food or leftovers out. Use bear-proof bins to promptly dispose of garbage.
- Feeding or approaching wildlife too closely causes animals to lose their natural fear of people. They may become aggressive, even dangerous.
- Feeding wildlife can also:



- * Attract animals to roadsides where they can be injured or killed by vehicles.
- * Harm or kill animals because treats offer poor nutrition.
- * Lead to eating garbage, which brings animals into conflict with people.
- * Affect your health. Direct contact with wildlife may expose you to rabies and tick-related diseases.



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WELCOME TO OUR BACKYARD!

Please enjoy it with respect.

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Alberta Parks