

Working Safely – Parks and Public Land

Important Information for Non-Profit Organizations

Thanks for what you do!

Alberta's non-profit organizations play important roles in delivering and supporting the environmental and recreation services that Albertans enjoy.

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) welcomes the opportunity to discuss your organization's interests and how these can best and most safely happen on Alberta's public land and provincial parks.

Let's Talk

Working outdoors has its hazards. In recognition of this, we've developed a few expectations for organizations to help ensure our workers, partners, contractors and others can safely support the department in providing enjoyable experiences for visitors and land users.

1. **All work in parks and on public land requires authorization.**

Whether it is hosting an event, building a new trail or maintaining an existing one, all work needs appropriate authorization. The type of authorization your organization requires depends on what you want to do; where and when you want to do it; how permanent the work is; whether it's for private or public use; and several other factors. Authorizations vary depending on these factors and may include dispositions, contracts, agreements, permits or temporary field authorizations.

2. **All authorized organizations - including yours - are responsible for the safety of their workers and contractors.**

Every organization with an authorization to conduct work in parks or on public land is expected to fully comply with occupational health and safety legislation, including ensuring the safety of their volunteers, employees and contractors.

3. **In some situations AEP is required to ask organizations to demonstrate compliance with occupational health and safety legislation before authorizing the work to proceed.**

In situations where AEP is directing the scope (e.g. type, amount or quality) of an organization's work, AEP is required by OHS legislation to ensure that the organization has, and follows, their own health and safety program and work site specific safety plans.

DYK? Volunteers are Workers

Volunteers have been considered workers since Alberta's first *Occupational Health and Safety Act* came into effect in 1974.

Non-profit organizations are considered employers and must extend the same protections to its employees and volunteers.

Doing Our Part

Alberta Environment and Parks is committed to:

- Facilitating a safe and healthy working environment for our employees and our volunteers.
- Working with Alberta's non-profit sector to find opportunities to contribute to Alberta's legacy of good stewardship and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Helping our visitors safely enjoy the remarkable outdoor experiences that are possible on our parks and on public land.
- Upholding our legal responsibilities to ensure compliance with safety legislation.

Your Organization's Part

Please help us help you by:

- Making worker safety an ongoing priority in your organization's working culture.
- Becoming familiar with the OHS requirements for your organization.
- Taking steps to ensure your organization is compliant with OHS legislation before approaching AEP for land-use authorizations. This may include developing an OHS program.

For More Information

About Occupational Health and Safety

- Call the OHS Contact Centre toll free at 1-866-415-8690
- Visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/health-safety-program.aspx> and <https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca>

About Public Land or Parks Authorizations

- Visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/environment-and-parks.aspx>
- Contact your local AEP contact or office