

## Recreational Ethics

*Backcountry ecosystems and waterways are fragile and vulnerable*

- Pack it in, pack it out
- Stay on designated trails
- Respect fellow users
- Manage fire hazards
- Be aware OHVs can introduce or spread invasive plants



Severe damage to this pipeline site by recreational users had to be cleaned up to protect the pipeline and sensitive areas. Such abuse could lead to reduced access or closure of areas and trails.

### CONSEQUENCES:

**BY NOT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY  
WE MAY LOSE OUR PRIVILEGE  
TO USE THE WEST COUNTRY.**

West Central Stakeholders encourages everyone to get more information on ways to use the west country safely and responsibly. SRD, ERCB, RCMP, Clearwater County and many other organizations provide information to help you make beneficial choices when enjoying the backcountry.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

# 911

**Alberta Sustainable Resource  
Development (SRD)**

**1-800-642-3800**

**Clearwater Mutual Aid Co-op  
(CMAC)**

**24-hour Emergency #**

**1-866-950-2622**

**Sunchild / O'Chiese Area Producers  
Mutual Aid Group (SOMAG)**

**24-hour Emergency #**

**1-877-845-0121**

**Energy Resources Conservation  
Board (ERCB)**

**403-340-5454**

## Using the west country is a privilege, not a right



WCS members, as users of the west country, provided this information to help all of us enjoy the area more safely and responsibly.

[www.westcentral.synergialberta.ca](http://www.westcentral.synergialberta.ca)

# PROTECTING OUR WEST COUNTRY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

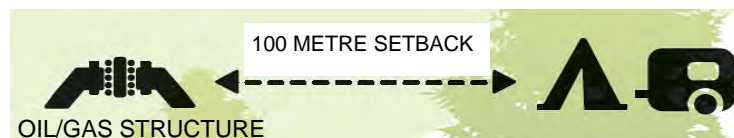
## Recreational Safety

*Choose campsites carefully.*

Stay away from oil and gas production equipment for your safety.



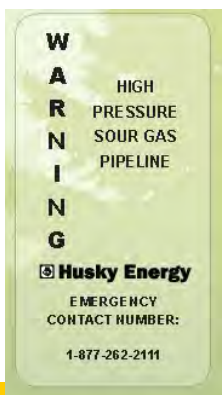
Above: Camping too close to oil and gas facility.



*Avoid wet and steep terrain.*

Don't cross exposed pipelines.

This sign (right) indicates the presence of a pipeline.



### Off-road usage

- Avoid driving through rivers, lakes and wetlands. Driving in these areas causes damaging ruts and erosion. Repeated travel in these areas creates damage that is very difficult to repair.
- Stay on established and well-defined trails, even in snow.
- Cross wetlands using bridges whenever possible. If no bridge or detour exists, and you must cross, seek out gentle banks and hard bottoms.
- Invasive plants can harm the fragile native plant ecosystem. OHVs are perfect vectors for spread of weeds. Avoid driving through weedy areas and ensure your OHV is clean upon arrival.

### Pack out what you pack in

Ensure all public land is clean and tidy when leaving. Dispose of human waste responsibly. Littering carries a fine.

### Camping

If possible, camp in a designated campground, such as a provincial park or forest recreation area. These campgrounds are designed with public safety and environmental protection in mind. Obey temporary or permanent road or area closures.

Random camping is permitted on most public land, provided it is not restricted in the local area, does not harm resources or cause user conflicts. Avoid areas where the ground is wet, soft or easily disturbed.

### Be aware of fire hazards

Be aware of the campfires, sparks and surrounding ground material that could act as fuel for a fire. Be extra vigilant with fires near oil and gas well sites or pipelines. Bring your own firewood and obey any fire bans or restrictions. OHV exhaust pipes are also a source of fire ignition.

### Why 100 m

A minimum set-back of 100 m from sour gas wells and facilities has been established by the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) for residential buildings. WCS member companies recommend the same set-back be respected for camping

near any oil or gas structure.

### Sour gas

There are numerous gas wells and facilities in this area, including some containing flammable and poisonous hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S), also known as



sour gas. Camping on gas well and facility sites is not permitted – you will be trespassing. Gas facilities are designed to meet stringent standards, but in the event that the facility is willfully or accidentally damaged, it is unsafe to be in close proximity.

### Pipeline crossings

There are numerous oil and gas pipelines in this area. The pipelines are not visible, but there are signs showing their location (usually posted at road and river crossings). The pipelines are protected from damage by ground (soil) cover, which is typically only 1 m thick.

Ruts can reduce pipeline cover to an unsafe level. If traveling on a pipeline right-of-way, please stay away from areas under reclamation, and from areas with ruts. Conventional vehicles (4x4 trucks) should never be driven over a pipeline right-of-way.

### Call for help

If a vehicle becomes stuck on a pipeline right-of-way, or you expose or contact a pipeline with your tires, leave the vehicle and call the emergency number on the sign or back page of this brochure.