



# FIREARMS AND HUNTING

There are a variety of regulations that apply to hunters and those discharging firearms. These include the provincial [Wildlife Act](#) and federal [Firearms Act](#) and [Criminal Code Act](#). These regulations help ensure healthy game populations and, most importantly, protect people and property.

*This fact sheet was current at the time of publication; however, you should always refer to legislation for the most accurate information.*

## Discharging a firearm in Wetaskiwin County

In Wetaskiwin County, you **can** discharge a firearm for hunting purposes in the following areas:

- your private property (see below for restrictions)
- someone else's private property with their permission
- most crown land: to learn more and view maps, visit [albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs](http://albertaregulations.ca/huntingregs)

Regardless of location, you are **not allowed** to do the following, as per the provincial [Wildlife Act](#):

Discharge a weapon or cause a projectile from a weapon to pass within 183 metres (200 yards) of any occupied building, unless you own or occupy that building or have permission from the owner or occupant.

Discharge a weapon from or cause a projectile from a firearm to pass along or across a provincial highway or a maintained road (see section 51)

Hunt any wildlife or discharge a firearm between one half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

**Wetaskiwin County does not allow hunting or the discharge of firearms on lands owned by the county, including parks, campgrounds and municipal/environmental reserves.** Any person – excluding law enforcement – in possession of a firearm in a park must make sure that firearm is unloaded and either disassembled or cased or stored in compliance with the [Firearms Act](#) and [Criminal Code Act](#).

## Reporting an offence

Firearm - related questions or reports of an offence must go to either the RCMP or Alberta Fish and Wildlife, depending on the circumstances. Wetaskiwin County peace officers cannot respond to incidents that involve dangerous weapons, including firearms.

- Emergency or crime in progress: 9-1-1
- Alberta Fish and Wildlife: 780-361-1250
- Report A Poacher line: 1-800-642-3800
- RCMP 24-hour non-urgent complaint line: 780-312-7267



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## Other regulations

### Firearms licence and registration

Residents who wish to purchase or possess a non-restricted firearm – which are used for hunting – are usually required to take and pass the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and obtain a Possession and Acquisition Licence.

Under the [Firearms Act](#), crossbows do not require a licence or registration; however, some crossbows are prohibited.

Different rules apply to restricted and prohibited firearms; learn more at [rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms](http://rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms)

### Firearm storage and transport

It is important to store and transport firearms safely to prevent injury and deter loss or theft. The best way to ensure safety is to unload and lock your firearms and store ammunition separately or locked up. Firearms are loaded if in the case of a rifle, shotgun or similar firearm, there is a live shell or cartridge in the breech or chamber, or a magazine that is attached to or inserted into the firearm.

For non-restricted firearms, you should attach a secure locking device, such as a trigger lock or cable lock, or remove the bolt so the firearm cannot be fired. You can also lock the firearm in a cabinet, container or room that is difficult to break into.

When transporting these firearms, you must keep them unloaded. If you leave them in your vehicle unattended, they must be locked in the trunk or a similar lockable compartment, or if that is not available, you must put the firearm(s) out of sight and lock the vehicle.

Learn more at [rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms](http://rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms)

### Hunting regulations

Hunters must obtain a hunting licence. All first-time hunters must complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course, which is administered by the Alberta Hunter Education and Instructors' Association and provides roughly 30 hours of instruction focused on safety and procedures.

### Resources

The below additional resources provide information about firearms and hunting:

[alberta.ca/hunting-in-alberta.aspx](http://alberta.ca/hunting-in-alberta.aspx)

[mywildalberta.ca](http://mywildalberta.ca)

[www.alberta.ca/fish-and-wildlife-contacts.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/fish-and-wildlife-contacts.aspx)