

>> Hunting Season and Remote Work Sites

Hunting season in Newfoundland & Labrador can pose unique risks for personnel in remote work sites. By being aware of the hazards and following a few safety measures we can minimize risks and ensure a safe working environment.

Hazards

Increased Risk of Accidental Injury: During hunting season, the risks increase pertaining to accidental shootings, injuries from stray bullets & unanticipated encounters with wildlife.

Wildlife Encounters: The presence of hunters can disturb wildlife, resulting in animals behaving unpredictably. This may lead to dangerous encounters with animals such as: moose, bear(s), etc.

Limited Access to Emergency Services (Remote): Emergency services may be delayed, and response times may be longer, which can exacerbate injuries.

Hazard Controls

There are some practical steps we can take to protect ourselves when working in remote areas, especially during hunting season:

Effective Planning:

- Be aware of the local hunting seasons and schedules.
- Plan your work activities to avoid peak hunting times.
- Never work alone, always utilize the Buddy System, so you will have help in the event of an Emergency.

Communication

- Maintain regular communication with your team and supervisors.
- Use radios or satellite phones to stay in touch, in areas with poor cell coverage.
- **If you must communicate with a hunter, be polite and courteous to resolve any issues you may have.**

High-Visibility Clothing:

- Always wear high-visibility clothing to ensure you are easily seen by hunters & other workers.

Emergency Preparedness

- Courses such as Wilderness First Aid or Outdoor Survival may help workers be better prepared for nature's hazards.
- Have an airhorn or bear spray located in strategic areas.



Signage:

- **Work Signage:** Place clear and visible signs around your work area indicating that work is in progress. Signs should be placed at all entry points and along access routes.
- **Warning Signage:** Use warning signs to alert hunters of your presence. Signs should include messages such as "Caution: Workers Ahead" or "No Hunting Beyond This Point." Regularly check and maintain signage to ensure it remains visible and legible throughout the hunting season to those nearby.

Incident Reporting

Any incidents involving wildlife or hunters should be reported immediately. This includes sightings of aggressive wildlife or any interactions with hunters.

- **Report incidents** to the [Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture](#). You can call their toll-free number at 1-877-820-0999 or use the online reporting system.
- **Document** all incidents thoroughly, including the time, location, and nature of the incident. This information is crucial for follow-up and investigation.