Preventing Collisions With Wildlife

April 24, 2019
Audio
Instructions

Select “Computer audio” to use your computer’s sound
OR
Select “Phone call” to dial in
Asking questions

Click on “Questions” to expand the Questions pane

THEN

Type your question to the moderator
Introducing today’s presenters

Gayle Hesse

Provincial Coordinator
Wildlife Collision Prevention Program

BC Conservation Foundation
Introducing today’s presenters

Gerard Messier
Director of Programs and Training
BC Forest Safety
Introducing today’s presenters

Rick Walters
Road Safety At Work
Fleet Strategy Manager
Overview

1. Why wildlife vehicle collisions are an important issue
2. Where and when most collisions occur
3. Wildlife behaviours you should know about
4. Methods and tools employers can use to reduce risk
5. Polls, questions and answer periods
On northern highways MoTI captures +/- 34%
66% not recorded

ICBC captures +/- 46%
54% not reported

Significant under-reporting

Photo credit: Gayle Hesse
Data demonstrates importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Annual average</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human fatalities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ICBC data 2013 - 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human injuries</td>
<td>650</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICBC claims</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>ICBC 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICBC claim costs</td>
<td>$ 41 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed animal mortality</td>
<td>6,100</td>
<td>MoTI, 5-year average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated wildlife collisions</td>
<td>24,400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Financial costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injury claims (WorkSafeBC, 2017)</td>
<td>$46,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle repairs</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of the animal</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towing</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident response costs</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting, investigation and follow-up</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locating and hiring replacement for injured employee</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtime and lost productivity</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance premium increases, loss of reputation, etc.</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$56,000+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wildlife vehicle collisions increasing

BC Animal-Related Crashes  2008-2017, ICBC
Wildlife vehicle collisions increasing

Regional Animal-Related Crashes  2008-2017, ICBC
Species involved in WVCs varies

Data: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure 2003-2007
Species involved in WVCs varies

North Central

- Deer: 46%
- Moose: 28%
- Elk: 79%
- Bear: 3%

Southern Interior

- Deer: 79%
- Moose: 3%
- Elk: 0%
- Bear: 0%
- Other: 0%

Data: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
2003-2007
What drivers need to know

• **Where** wildlife vehicle collisions happen
• **When** WVCs happen
• **What** wildlife behaviours put drivers at risk

Photo credit: Carson Newby
Where WVCs occur

MoTI Rural Highway Safety and Speed Review (2014)
The illusion of the open road

Straight stretches
Good road conditions

False confidence
Increase speed

Reduce vigilance
Increase complacency

As speed increases:
• reaction and stopping distances increase
• more severe consequences if collision occurs

Photo credit: Gayle Hesse
Collisions with deer - season

October, November about 940 per month

ICBC, 2006 - 2010
Collisions with deer – time of day

Throughout the year

In October / November (peak months)

ICBC, 2006 - 2010
Collisions with moose - season

June, July: about 50 per month

December, January: about 115 per month

ICBC, 2006 - 2010
Collisions with moose – time of day

Collisions with moose throughout the year

ICBC, 2006 – 2010
Help drivers succeed

- Tailgate meetings – spring and fall
- Identify high risk locations
- Adjust schedules / routes to avoid peak times
- Alternate routes?
- Pre-winter inspections, vehicles ready
- Manage fatigue, get passengers to help
Animals are attracted to roadsides

- Brushing provides tasty, accessible food source
- Edge habitat
- Salt, minerals
- Roads in animal travel corridors
- Winter travel

Photo credit: Stephen Clark
Animal perceptions ≠ human perceptions

Do animals perceive roads and vehicles as dangerous?
Wildlife behaviours

• Are unpredictable

• May bolt in any direction

• May cross and re-cross

• May follow the leader

Photo credit: Ginevre Smith
Questions and Discussion
What employers can do to reduce risk
Ride-along driver assessments

Driver Assessment Form

Driver Assessment Guide
Use training to build driving skills

- Online courses
- Coaching / mentoring
- Hands-on training
  - JIBC Collision Avoidance Driving
  - Resource Road Light Truck Driver Training
  - Driver training providers – defensive driving
Make WVCs part of your road safety dialogue

Tailgate meeting — Avoiding Collisions with Wildlife

Review online recording of this webinar

Cover it in orientation process

Topic for safety meetings

Remind and refresh each fall
Have an effective journey management process
Avoid unnecessary travel

What are the no-travel alternatives?

- Online meeting, video conference
- Telephone, conference call
- Email
If travel is necessary, what’s the best way to get there?

- Plane
- Ride share
- Bus or taxi
- Walk or cycle
If driving is necessary, apply measures to minimize exposure?

1. identify hazards and assess risks
2. implement measures to avoid or minimize exposure
3. build the trip plan
Put journey management to work

- Free, mobile-friendly journey management tool
- 15 questions to help prepare the driver and vehicle for the journey ahead
- 2 integrated trip plan forms
- Save and print, or email to supervisor and check-in contact
Collaborate with others to identify corridors, locations

RoadWatchBC
- Citizen science
- South-eastern BC
- Statistically significant
  - Carcasses
  - Live Crossings
  - Live Adjacent
Take advantage of local knowledge

BC Hydro Wildlife Tracking

- Large map outside kitchen
- Accessible
- Employees and contractors could see observation sites, and contribute theirs

Photo credit: Giles Shearing
Develop and implement a system – Arrow

- Focus on drivers, environment and equipment
- Management actively contributes and supports
- Provide training, relay information to drivers
- Communication between drivers, managers, supervisors and dispatchers
- Communication – tips, posters, brochures, tailgate meetings, updates
Develop and implement a system – Arrow

- Run safe equipment – lights, windshields, wipers, bumpers, tires, brakes
- Technology – on-board recorders, dash cams
- Incident review process – learn and share
- Be vigilant, scrub-off as much speed as possible, remain in own travel lane
- Management team and drivers committed to results
1. WVCs kill thousands of animals, cause human injuries and fatalities and incur significant costs

2. Most WVCs occur on Highways 3, 93, 97, 16
   Dusk and dawn – 5 am to 8 am, 6 pm to 8 pm
   Animals don’t react as humans expect

3. To help prevent WVCs:
   - assess driver skills; provide training to build skills
   - use effective journey management, TripCheck
   - make WVCs part of your safety dialogue
   - implement prevention measures
Questions and Discussion
Contact us with your questions

wcpp@bccf.com
messier@bcforestsafe.org
rick.walters@roadsafetyatwork.ca
Visit our websites for more tools and resources

http://www.wildlifecollisions.ca

http://www.bcforestsafe.org/

https://roadsafetyatwork.ca/