

EHMP 2022-23 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

1. A daily participation limit has been established at a maximum of 140 hunters per day during the designated hunt dates (listed below).
2. First Nation hunters will be required to pre-register for access to CFB Suffield during hunt seasons. To register, please email: SUFHRP@forces.gc.ca.
3. All participants must attend a daily safety briefing at the [CFB Suffield Recreation Centre](#) in Ralston, Alta. Parking lot opens at 6:00 am. Briefing starts at 6:45 a.m. each day of the hunt.
4. All participants are to remain in their vehicle once guided to a designated row in the parking lot (except for use of on-site portable toilets).
5. Vehicles must be in place no later than 6:30 a.m. daily.
6. Hunting maps, waivers and vehicle passes will be provided to each vehicle either upon entering the parking lot, or exiting the parking lot. Registration will occur with all participants in their vehicles.
7. If hunters wish to hunt the National Wildlife Areas (NWA), which are walk in-walk out hunt areas, they must indicate their desire to enter the NWA draw upon entering the parking lot. NWA draws will be conducted during the briefings. One NWA entry can be entered per vehicle (licence plate).
8. Briefing will be delivered via FM frequency. If issues arise participants will be required to read/review the handouts themselves.
9. Waivers, COVID-19 forms, etc will be collected when leaving the parking lot.
10. Vehicle passes will be issued when leaving the parking lot.
11. All participants must be off the Range and Training Area (RTA) by no later than 6 p.m. Not complying with this timing could result in a ban for the remainder of the October and November 2022, and January 2023 EHMP seasons.
12. When done hunting for the day, hunters are to remain in their vehicles when exiting the RTA at the Hunter Check Station. Range Control & Provincial personnel will approach all vehicles at the Hunter Check Station to collect vehicle pass, record any elk data and collect volunteered elk heads for CWA testing. If heads are wanting to be submitted, the heads must be removed prior to arriving at the exit point/Hunter Check Station.
13. All hunters and helpers must be at least 18 years of age or older. Hunters and helpers must travel in the same vehicle. No one under the age of 18 will be granted access to the Range and Training Area (government-issued photo identification required for all participants).
14. All hunters are highly encouraged to bring flashlights, GPS, spare batteries, extra food and water. Extra fuel may be also be desired.

What is the Elk Herd Management Program at CFB Suffield?

14. Since 2012, an Elk Herd Reduction Program was implemented by the Government of Alberta. Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Suffield has supported the province's efforts to

reduce the elk population by granting access to the base for an annual hunt. As of 2017, this provincially run hunt continues but has been renamed the Elk Herd Management Program (EHMP) at CFB Suffield.

Why is there an elk hunt at CFB Suffield?

15. An elk herd was re-introduced at CFB Suffield in 1997. From a population of about 200 elk in 1997, the population grew to more than 7,000 by 2014. Because there are few predators in the area of CFB Suffield, without hunting, this population was projected to increase by more than 20 per cent annually. The EHMP aims to reduce the number of elk in CFB Suffield's Range and Training Area. As of February 2022, the herd is estimated to be approximately 2500 head.

When is the EHMP at CFB Suffield?

16. This year's EHMP will take place from October 26, 2022 to January 28, 2023.

17. The schedule for the 2022/23 hunt is as follows:

- Season 1 – October 26 to 28, 2022
- Season 2 – November 3 to 5, 2022
- Season 3 – November 19 to 21, 2022
- Season 4 – January 10 to 12, 2023
- Season 5 – January 18 to 20, 2023
- Season 6 – January 26 to 28, 2023

How to do I contact Alberta Environment and Parks or CFB Suffield?

18. To contact Alberta Environment and Parks:

Email: AEP.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca

Toll Free: 1-877-944-0313

19. To contact CFB Suffield regarding the EHMP:

Email: SUFEHRP@forces.gc.ca

Phone: 403-544-5555 (Note: This phone line is only manned during the hunt dates).

Who can participate in the EHMP at CFB Suffield?

20. Hunters ages 18 and up who have received EHMP tags from the Government of Alberta. All hunting tags must be acquired through the Government of Alberta. CFB Suffield does not issue hunting tags. For more information, visit [My Wild Alberta](#).

21. First Nations hunters ages 18 and up, who have pre-registered with CFB Suffield, will be granted access on an availability basis to the EHMP through a registration process. First Nations hunters must submit their request to hunt and register with CFB Suffield in advance by contacting the following email address: SUFEHRP@forces.gc.ca

22. Each hunter will be booked into specific dates and times in order to distribute participation across the entire hunt period for safety reasons.

What First Nation Communities are eligible to hunt during the EHMP?

23. First Nations members, age 18 and up, who are recognized by the Province of Alberta's regulations and laws to be eligible for hunting in southeastern Alberta will be able to register to hunt during the EHMP.

24. Indigenous communities that are not recognized by the provincial regulations to hunt in southeastern Alberta will not be granted access to the range by CFB Suffield unless they are in possession of EHMP tags or provincial regulations are amended to grant further eligibility.
25. CFB Suffield does not determine hunting eligibility and shall adhere to provincial law with respect to wildlife management.
26. Only elk (antlered and/or antlerless) can be harvested at CFB Suffield and only during the EHMP.

Where does the hunt take place?

27. Hunters will be granted access to parts of CFB Suffield's Range and Training Area on a daily basis after attending the mandatory daily safety briefing.
28. [CFB Suffield](#) is located 5 km north of the Trans-Canada Highway along Highway 884. It is approximately 50 km northwest from the City of Medicine Hat.
29. Some sections of the Range and Training Area will be restricted for safety reasons. Restricted areas may change daily and will be briefed accordingly at the daily safety brief.

Is the Range and Training Area closed for the purpose of hunting elk?

30. No. Although when the EHMP is happening it is not usually a busy time for Military training, there may be some areas out of bounds due to Military training. Other range users like oil & gas workers, range biologists, etc may also be in the Range and Training Area. Out of bounds areas will be briefed at the morning safety brief.

Are there other conditions that must be adhered to when participating in the EHMP at CFB Suffield?

31. Hunters can bring a spare rifle, but it must be encased at all times when not in use.
32. Helpers cannot carry firearms.
33. The Range and Training Area at CFB Suffield is a type 2 Military range. This means that live firing of Military munitions has occurred throughout the Range and Training Area. Although CFB Suffield strives to locate and remove all unexploded ordnances, there is still a risk that some unexploded ordnances may remain. All participants will be briefed further during the morning safety briefs. All participants will be required to submit a signed waiver to say that they understand and accept the risk associated with hunting on a type 2 Military range. Waivers will be submitted during the registration process which follows the morning safety briefing. There is no requirement to submit paperwork in advance and the waiver will be provided upon entry prior to the daily safety briefing.
34. All hunters are required to have the following items in their possession:
 - A charged cellphone with them at all times.
 - High visible clothing (vest or jacket) must be worn at all times when outside of vehicle while on the range. A high visible hat is encouraged.
 - Hunters must ensure they have sufficient fuel for their day's activities. Once vehicles enter the Range and Training Area they must remain in the Range and Training Area until ready to depart for the day (there is no going off and back into the Range and Training Area on the same day).

- The CANEX gas station at the base now has regular, premium and diesel fuels available.
 - CANEX weekday hours are 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm on weekends.
 - The next closest fuel station to CFB Suffield is in Redcliff, Alta., which is approximately 40 km southeast on the Trans-Canada Highway.
 - CANEX gas station also sells some food, clothing and supplies.
35. Documentation required for registration (bring this paperwork in with you to the morning brief):
- Government-issued photo identification.
 - For provincially registered hunters: elk hunting license and hunting tags.
 - For First Nations hunters: Government-issued Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card.
 - Vehicle registration and proof of insurance.
 - All hunters must have their Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) for firearms, or must be in direct supervision of someone who has a PAL. Direct supervision means close enough to see at all times and talk without a raised voice.
36. There is no firearm/ammo restrictions as long as they meet Federal and Provincial rules and regulations.

What is required to hunt in the CFB Suffield National Wildlife Area (NWA)?

37. Access to the CFB Suffield National Wildlife Areas (NWA) will be granted through a draw each morning prior to the safety briefing.
38. Those interested in hunting in the NWA must enter their info for the draw for either the northern NWA, or southern NWA. These draws are daily and vehicle licence plate number must be entered daily prior to the daily safety brief.
39. Those successfully drawn for the NWA can also hunt the main hunting area.
40. Hunters must be accompanied by at least one helper/hunter to hunt in the NWA. Hunters cannot hunt alone in this area for safety reasons.
41. Some additional equipment is mandatory to have for hunting in the CFB Suffield NWA. The following equipment is mandatory and will be checked during registration:
- Handheld GPS or compass (other than a cellphone). iPad and tablets are acceptable with the proper app installed, &
 - Flashlight.
- Recommended:
- A method of animal retrieval, such as a game hunting cart, pull sled, backpack, and
 - Spare batteries for flashlight & GPS.
42. The NWA is a walk-in and walk-out area where no motorized vehicles are permitted off named / main roads (as per morning briefing). The area is remote and cellphone/wireless connectivity is limited.

What is not permitted on the base?

43. There is a zero-tolerance policy for drug and alcohol use or possession in the Range and Training Area, including any drug that will impair an individual's judgement or

cognitive ability. If a participant is found to be in possession of these items, they and their hunting party will be banned immediately upon entering the base. All vehicles will be searched.

44. No photography or videography is allowed.
45. Speeding will not be tolerated.
46. CFB Suffield is a controlled airspace, and therefore, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones) are not permitted.
47. Base personnel are not able to assist with the recovery of a disabled vehicle during the EHMP. In the event that a vehicle gets stuck or breaks down, towing and recovery will be an owner's responsibility. Most towing companies can be called out to the Range and Training Area, but they will need to be escorted by Range Control personnel.
48. Base personnel will not assist with animal retrieval, unless a wounded animal enters an out of bounds area.

What types of vehicles are permitted?

49. A vehicle pass to enter the Base will be issued to each vehicle during registration. Four-wheel drive, pickup trucks and SUVs are strongly recommended.
50. Non-motorized bicycles (with or without small trailers) are permitted. Their usage includes the NWA.
 - If bicycles are used, fat-tire bicycles are strongly recommended due to sandy soil,
 - Repair kits are strongly encouraged due to low-lying cactus plants in the area.
51. All-terrain vehicles (quads, four-wheelers, snowmobiles, etc.) are not permitted in the Range and Training Area.
52. Light cargo trailers are permitted for the transport and storage of harvested animals.

What does the daily timeline look like? (This may be changed due to COVID-19)

53. Although timings may change for various reasons i.e. poor weather, first day of the season, etc, here is what a typical daily timetable looks like:
 - 6:00 am: Hunters start arriving at the Ralston Recreation Center parking lot:
 - upon entry, briefing packages are handed out, to include hunt map, waiver, etc;
 - names are submitted for NWA hunts (1 per hunter);
 - veh's are lined up in rows (5-6 rows TBC).;
 - hunters and helpers remain in veh's (except to use portable toilets); &
 - registration begins down the line of veh's i.e. hunter and helper names, phone numbers, etc.
 - 6:45 am: Vehicles tune into radio station (FM frequency will be given upon entry).
 - 6:45 am: NWA draw occurs and winning veh's are announced.
 - 6:50 am: Safety Briefs start.
 - 7:30 am (approx): Safety Briefs end.
 - 7:40 am: Signed waivers, etc are turned in. Vehicle passes issued. Veh's start to exit parking lot through exit point(s).
 - 8:00 am: Gates opened & controlled by Range Control (W12 & S24).
 - 9:00 am: Gates are closed (approximate timing).

6:00 pm (1800 hrs): all pers off ranges via Range Control Bldg (Hunter Check Station). Hunters & helpers remain in veh's (except to use portable toilets).

Not complying with the 6 pm timing could result in a ban for the remainder of the October, November 2022, and January 2023 EHMP seasons.

** All timings subject to change as required i.e. poor weather in the morning, slower than expected registration, etc.*

All participants must be prepared to wear a mask when conversing with Elk Hunt Staff.