

	ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS SIGNS		Issued: JAN 2015
			Revised:
			Page 1 of 3
RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS	
	SECTION	MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS	
	SUB-SECTION	PUBLIC AWARENESS	

General

Personal, recreational and work-related travel between different regions and water bodies can allow for the spread of species that are not native to the area. These species can cause harmful effects to the natural ecosystem.

The Alberta government has various programs in place to inform and educate the public about the proper procedures required to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Environmental awareness signs along the highway right-of-way can be implemented in conjunction with a provincial environmental program upon receipt of a permit. The signs are intended to warn foreign visitors and domestic travellers of potential ecological dangers caused by travelling.

Eligibility

Any provincial government department can apply for a permit to place an Environmental Awareness sign in the highway right-of-way. The department must show that the sign would be of substantial benefit to a provincial environmental program that the department is in charge of.

To apply for a permit, a letter of application must be sent to one of Alberta Transportation's district offices. The letter must include the proposed sign specification(s), sign location(s), and justification for installing the signs. Sign specifications include the sign size, colour, wording, and text size.

A map of the districts as well as the office

contact information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/4450.htm>

After review and approval of the application, Alberta Transportation will issue a permit that allows for the installation of the Environmental Awareness signs.

Standard

Environmental Awareness signs are custom designed signs consisting of a support structure and one large panel containing a text message. The safety and aesthetics of the signs are the principal concerns for Alberta Transportation. Newly designed signs are permitted to have a simple message containing only the following:

- Brief informational message or slogan that warns about the environmental danger or action required
- Program symbol or logo

Environmental Awareness signs should follow the material specifications outlined in Section 5.18 of the Standard Specifications for Highway Construction. This includes reflective sheeting of ASTM Type III or IV. The sign backing can be 3/4" 100/100 or 120/120 Hi-Density Plywood, or extruded aluminium.

Environmental Awareness signs that are located within the clear zone must have a breakaway base. No heavy or rigid structures will be allowed within the clear zone.

The maximum sign size is 2.4 metres x 1.2 metres (8 feet x 4 feet). For new sign designs, the minimum lettering size is 100 mm for sign legibility.

Examples of current and approved Environmental Awareness signs can be seen below:



Figure 1 – Environmental Awareness Sign for Aquatic Invasive Species



Figure 2 – Environmental Awareness Sign for Forestry



Figure 3 – Environmental Awareness Sign for Knapweed



Figure 4 – Environmental Awareness Sign for Scentless Chamomile

Guidelines for Placement

Environmental Awareness signs are placed within the provincial highway right-of-way. Alberta Transportation will work with the applicant to determine the appropriate number of signs and suitable sign locations.

Alberta Transportation will monitor the types of Environmental Awareness signs to prevent redundancy.

The following specific criteria should be applied when locating Environmental Awareness signs along the highway:

- Signs must be placed no closer than six metres from the nearest edge of the adjacent travel lane.
- No signs will be allowed within the median of a divided provincial highway.
- No signs shall be placed within 500 metres of an intersection in a rural area.
- Signs shall not obstruct a driver's sightlines of railway crossings, adjacent roadways or traffic upon intersecting roadways when such

are viewed from a vehicle traveling past the intersection in any direction.

- In approving candidate locations of signs, the proximity of other roadway signs, such as regulatory, warning, information, directional and guide signs, will require consideration in the context of traffic safety, message continuity and signing clutter.

Installation and Maintenance

The requirements for fabricating, installing and maintaining Environmental Awareness signs are outlined in the Recommended Practices guideline entitled General Provisions for Installing Private Signs within the Highway Right-of-Way.

References to Standards

<i>Recommended Practices</i> Section: General	Placement of Signs
<i>Recommended Practices</i> Section: General	General Provisions for Installing Private Signs within the Highway Right-of-Way
<i>Standard Specifications for Highway Construction</i>	Section 5.18: Supply of Permanent Highway Signs, Posts, and Bases