

# Liard River Hot Springs - Electric Wildlife Fence



## Safe Wildlife . Safe Campers . Great Memories

**Why was an electric fence put in?** Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park has a rich diversity of wildlife, including bears that frequent the area due to an abundance of natural food sources. The river, open forests, and riparian areas are rich with vegetation, fish, and berries. To protect bears and other wildlife from becoming habituated to humans and to keep them moving through the wildlife corridor, BC Parks has erected an 8-foot electric fence, enclosing the entire campground, day-use parking area, and staff compound. This decision was made after careful consideration as a means to reduce wildlife-human interactions and keep both park visitors and wildlife safe.

### What should I do if I see wildlife:

**Outside the fence?** remain calm, give the animal lots of space, and move away slowly. Wildlife deserve respect and should not be intimidated.

**Inside the fence?** in the unlikely event wildlife act unpredictably and breach the fence, immediately report it to the nearest park staff member. Remain calm and get to a safe and secure place (i.e. inside a vehicle). **Never approach or feed wildlife!**

**What happens if a human or pet touches the electric fence?** The fence consists of electrified outer wires and game mesh on the inside, separating people and pets from the charged outer wires. The fence carries a high-voltage and a low amperage pulsing electric current - touching or brushing up against the fence will give a strong and painful shock but presents no danger to humans or pets. Intentionally tampering with the fence is not tolerated and may result in a fine or eviction from the park.

**Supervise children and pets when near the fence.**

**How does the electric fence impact wildlife?** The electrical current throughout the fence pulsates; although the voltage is high, the current is low, and the charged wires deliver an unpleasant experience to wildlife without any harm. The negative stimulus from the fence quickly teaches wildlife to stay away.

### How do I know that the fence is working?

Always assume that the fence is on and working. Park staff routinely monitor the fence and walk the right of way daily. Further, staff will be alerted if the fence is not working properly via alarms and notification lights installed within the park facility compound. **Do NOT test the fence by touching it.**



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**What should I do if I see that the fence is damaged?** Immediately report any damages, including the location and details to the nearest park staff member. Damage may include things like, fallen trees, vandalism, or digging along the fence by bears.

**Can I walk or bike through the wildlife guard at the entrance to the park?** No. Wildlife guards can only be driven over in a vehicle. Pedestrians and cyclists must use the adjacent self-closing gate.



### How many electric fences exist in BC Parks?

Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park is the first BC Park to have an electric fence surrounding an entire campground, day-use parking area, and staff compound. Many other park systems use electric fences to help prevent wildlife from becoming habituated and encourage the animals to continue moving through the area, keeping both wildlife and park visitors safe. Electric fences are not necessary in all parks; they are primarily meant for locations that have a high potential for human-wildlife interactions to occur.

**Is it ok to leave food, garbage, or other attractants out while within the fence?** NO! It is vital that all food, garbage and wildlife attractants (i.e. toothpaste, pet food, BBQs, etc.) be properly stored in a hard-sided vehicle overnight and when away from your campsite. Leaving a messy campsite may result in a fine or an eviction from the park. Similarly, it is illegal to place wildlife attractants outside the fence. **Never feed wildlife.**



### How to stay safe in bear country?

- Never feed or approach a bear/other wildlife;
- Properly store food and wildlife attractants in a hard-sided vehicle;
- Put garbage in the bear-proof bins provided;
- Hike in groups and talk loudly;
- Carry bear spray and know how to use it;
- Keep pets on a leash; and
- Learn more about bears.

**What are your thoughts on the new electric fence at Liard River Hot Springs?** We are keen to know how you felt about the electric fence and what further education we need to do. Do you have questions or want to share feedback about your experience at Liard River Hot Springs? Please share your thoughts with BC Park staff via: [parkinfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:parkinfo@gov.bc.ca)



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