

# SMOKE INFORMATION UPDATE

## BANFF NATIONAL PARK

**What's happening:**

AltaLink is rebuilding the 551L transmission line, located between Banff and Lake Louise, to improve electrical reliability in the area. In order to reduce the risk of tree contacts with the line, AltaLink is clearing trees that could pose a risk to the line ("danger trees") up to a distance of approximately 15 metres (50 feet) from the edge of the right-of-way on both sides of the line. Most vegetative debris will be hauled away from the site, but smaller debris will be piled and burned onsite.

**Why?**

AltaLink works with Parks Canada on determining a solution with the lowest environmental impact that is also cost-effective. Burning small debris onsite means a lower amount of debris will be left on the ground, minimizing the risk of wildfire from nearby ignition sources. Additionally, minimizing debris on the ground allows for the native vegetation to grow back unimpeded, as opposed to leaving behind heavier debris loads that promote the spread of non-native/invasive vegetation. Burning of debris onsite also returns nutrients to the site and burning in a limited number of locations reduces the disturbance footprint of the project.

**How might this affect you?**

- Smoke will be visible along the Bow Valley Parkway, and possibly along Highway 1, during construction activities.
- AltaLink will coordinate with Parks Canada's Fire Information Safety Officer to commence burning on days that are favourable to smoke dispersion. Please note burning activities could occur on any day of the week and will continue to smoulder, monitored, during the night.
- Burning activities will be occurring between early February and March 31, 2016.
- People with smoke sensitivities or smoke-related concerns are encouraged to contact Alberta Health Link at: 1-866-408-LINK (5465).
- Those with medical conditions (e.g. asthma, chronic bronchitis) or severe smoke sensitivities may wish to receive notification in advance of operations. To be added to the Banff National Park smoke sensitive list, please call 403-760-0934 or email [fire.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:fire.info@pc.gc.ca).

**For more information contact:**

Fire Information Officer, [fire.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:fire.info@pc.gc.ca), 403-760-0934

AltaLink, [stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca](mailto:stakeholderrelations@altalink.ca), 1-877-267-1453