

Heartland 101: Turnarounds scheduled for Heartland facilities

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Just like the regular maintenance you perform on your vehicle and house, industrial facilities also require dedicated maintenance. Many companies in Alberta's Industrial Heartland take advantage of warmer weather in spring and summer to schedule a turnaround, in which production is suspended or decreased to perform maintenance activities.

Regular maintenance ensures the facilities are safe and efficient. This involves equipment inspections and, if necessary, repairs, replacements, and technology upgrades. The duration and magnitude of a turnaround varies with the size of each facility and extent of maintenance required. Some last only a few days while others may last a month or longer.

While turnarounds may create additional traffic on local highways due to an increased workforce, they also generate several benefits. Additional spending occurs on goods and services, providing a boost to the local economy. As well, the increased efficiency and environmental performance of facilities is of benefit to both companies and nearby communities.

Planning for a turnaround ensures the appropriate personnel, equipment, and processes are in place. It also involves community awareness, including utilizing the UPDATEline to keep the community informed about turnaround activities. If you are curious about anything you see, hear, or smell, call the UPDATEline at 1.866.653.9959 to access pre-recorded messages about industry activity 24 hours a day.

Several companies have turnarounds planned for 2015:

Spring Mar/Apr/May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrium Redwater • Plains Midstream Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shell Canada • Williams (Redwater)
Summer Jun/Jul/mid-Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrium Redwater • Evonik • Keyera 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oerlikon Metco • Sherritt International • Umicore Canada
Fall Late-Aug/Sep/Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Liquide • Aux Sable • Chemtrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Williams (Redwater) • Shell Canada

There will also be ongoing construction activities at North West Redwater Partnership's Sturgeon Refinery site throughout 2015.

The impact of the above turnarounds/construction projects on the local community differs with each type of facility. Impacts in some cases may include increased flaring or additional noise. In other cases, there will be no noticeable impact. Questions about turnaround activities should be directed to each particular company.

For more information about Life in the Heartland, visit lifeintheheartland.com, follow us on Twitter and Facebook, or email info@lifeintheheartland.com.

*Heartland 101 is a monthly print and on-air (Mix 107.9 FM) series brought to you by **Life in the Heartland**, a partnership of five local organizations improving access to information, resources, and contacts for communities in and around Alberta's Industrial Heartland.*