



The Importance of Guy-Wires

A guy-wire, guy-line, or guy-rope, also known as simply a guy, is a tensioned cable designed to add stability to a free-standing structure.

Some utility poles buried in the ground have sufficient strength to stand on their own; but others need guy-wires to support loads and to resist ground movement. The lower end where the cable enters the ground is often encased in a length of yellow or orange plastic reflector to make it more visible so that people or vehicles do not run into it.

However, not all free standing poles or structures may have reflectors. Annually, farmers are reminded during seeding and harvest season to check their surroundings all day/every day and be certain that they can safely navigate around the power poles, power lines and guy-wires.

Additionally, members who are snowmobilers in rural areas should watch out for guy-wires, as snow depth and weather conditions (in particular snow glare on a sunny day) can compromise the visibility of these guy-wires.

While guy-wires are not energized that doesn't mean they may not occasionally conduct electricity, in particular if they are compromised by uncommon forces.

Cautions about contact with guy-wires are also pertinent to livestock. For example, cattle rubbing on a guy-wire (see photo right) will cause a utility pole to shake and move, decreasing the stability of the pole. An unstable utility pole could result in a single member power outage and/or a distribution system disruption.

FENN REA members who have cattle pastured or corralled where guy-wires are present can improve the reliability of their own electricity and the safety of their herd, by installing a fence post on either side of the guy wire. Members are encouraged to check their property for potential livestock and guy-wire interactions.



For power outages, emergency power troubles and service requests, contact the distribution system operator for
FENN REA: **ATCO Electric**
Phone toll-free: 1-800-668-2248

FENN REA
Box 31, Fenn, Alberta T0J 1K0
Phone: c/o Philip Jarmin,
1-403-740-9384
Email: fennrea@gmail.com
www.fennrea.com

Battle River Power Coop
Member Care & Billing
Box 1420, Camrose AB T4V 1X3
Phone toll-free: 1-877-428-3972
Email: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop

Farm Equipment Road Safety

According to the Canadian Agricultural Injury Surveillance program, 13% of farm-related fatalities across Canada are traffic related, and most of these involve tractors. As a farmer, you often travel long distances between fields requiring travel on public roads throughout Alberta.

Farm equipment is oversized and slow compared to other vehicles using the roads, which can result in collisions and other accidents. Following are the most common types of collisions involving farm equipment.

- The most frequent type of single-vehicle collision is a farm tractor being driven too close to the shoulder of the road and rolling into the ditch.
- The most common type of multiple-vehicle collision is a farm machine being hit as it is turning onto a public road from a farm road or another public road.
- There is a high number of rear-end collisions, usually occurring at intersections and caused by motorists underestimating the size and speed of the farm equipment.
- A large number of collisions occur while the farm equipment is making a left-hand turn where operators fail to signal or the signal is not visible to other traffic.
- Almost half of all collisions occur during peak harvest time.

You can prevent farm equipment accidents on public roads by focusing on three main areas.

- 1. Make your equipment safe and visible:** Follow regulated requirements for lighting and signage including a clean slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign as appropriate. Complete a safety check of any vehicles that will be travelling on public highways (hitch pins, tires, etc.).
- 2. Follow safe driving tips:** Travel at a speed that will ensure you can maintain vehicle control, observe road precautions, avoid busy roads / travel times if possible, always stop and make sure the way is clear, and ensure all drivers have a valid driver's license.
- 3. Drive defensively:** Stay alert for hazards and if traffic is lined up behind you and you decide to move over to allow vehicles to get by, ensure the shoulder width is sufficient and solid enough to support your equipment.

Remember:

Your farm tractor and other self-propelled implements are vehicles and subject to Criminal Code driving prohibitions. It is illegal to operate any vehicle while you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs that can impair you.



Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

The RRO rate may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you receive the default RRO rate.

For June 2020, the RRO is priced at \$0.06304 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For July 2020, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.06943. The RRO rate is also listed on www.fennrea.com.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

Information on **FENN REA's Code of Conduct Compliance Plan** can be found on our website: www.fennrea.com