

LIGHTNING SAFETY

*When thunder roars,
GO INDOORS!*



*Visual by local photographer Ann Bond, used with permission
www.facebook.com/dragonflyconnectionphotography*

! Did you know that Canada averages over 2 million lightning strikes each year (with the peak month being July) and that annually 9 to 10 people are killed and between 100 and 150 people are injured by lightning.

! If you hear thunder, take shelter immediately. If you cannot find a sturdy, fully enclosed

building, get into an all-metal vehicle (not a convertible) as it is the metal cage that protects you from lightning. Regrettably this guideline is becoming a challenge for some farmers caught their fields as tractors and other large farm equipment, traditionally made out of steel, are being replaced with materials like fiberglass and plastic.

! If caught outside away from safe shelter, do not stand near tall objects such as trees, poles, wires and fences or anything made of metal, avoid open water and take shelter in a low-lying area, keeping an eye out for possible flooding. Note that picnic shelters, dugouts, and small buildings without plumbing or electricity are not safe. If caught on the water, quickly get to shore.

! If you shelter indoors, stay away from electrical appliances and equipment, doors, windows, fireplaces, and anything else that will conduct electricity, such as water—so delay taking a shower, doing laundry, or washing the dishes by hand.

! Use battery operated or cordless devices only as electrical current from the lightning strike will travel through wires and cords using the path of least resistance. If your equipment is directly connected to a power source and/ or internet feed, then you are not safe. If you are using equipment with no wire connecting it to a power source (e.g., wireless laptop), then you are safe.

! If you are in your vehicle during lightning, do not park under tall objects that could topple, and do not get out if there are downed power lines nearby. You are safe inside, but you may receive a shock if you step outside. If you see a downed powerline, call 911 or FortisAlberta at 310-WIRE.

! Once in, or at, the safest location available to you, **remain there for 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder is heard** before resuming any outdoor activities. Remember, every time you hear thunder rumble you need to restart the clock until 30 minutes has passed.

See the back page for common myths.

For power troubles or service requests,
contact: FortisAlberta (the distribution
system operator for West Wetaskiwin
REA): Toll-free: 1-855-333-9473
or 780-310-9473

For REA inquiries contact:
West Wetaskiwin REA
R.R. #1 Station Main,
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8
Phone: 780-335-9378 (WEST)
E-mail: westwet@telus.net
www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

For billing or account inquiries contact:
Battle River Power Coop
Box 1420
Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972
E-mail: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop

MYTHS!

Following are some of the common myths surrounding thunderstorms.

- X Rubber boots will save you.** Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide no protection from lightning.
- X If it's not raining, there is no danger.** Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur more than 16 kilometers away from a storm.
- X "Heat lightning" occurs after hot summer days and is not a threat.** "Heat lightning" is actually just lightning from a thunderstorm that is too far away for thunder to be heard.
- X Blue skies mean no threat.** If you hear thunder, then the lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat.
- X Being indoors guarantees your safety.** Stay away from electrical appliances – that means your computer, TV or gaming console if plugged in – and equipment, doors, windows, fireplaces and anything else that will conduct electricity, such as sinks, tubs and showers.
- X People struck by lightning carry an electrical charge and should not be touched.** Lightning-strike victims carry no electrical charge; however, victims may be suffering from burns or shock and should receive medical attention immediately. Call 911 and if breathing has stopped, administer mouth-to-mouth or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Appreciation Night for Ron Midtdal

Ron Midtdal was acknowledged for his 22 years of commitment and dedicated service (1996 – 2018) to the West Wetaskiwin REA at an appreciation dinner held at the Chef N' Pigeon Lake Restaurant at The Village at Pigeon Lake.

He and his fellow Directors shared stories about the camaraderie that develops within the Board environment as they pursue their key goal of maintaining a successful West Wetaskiwin REA; one that continues to operate as a cooperative, independent power provider. Ron's wife, Leona, was also acknowledged for her endorsement of Ron's time commitment as a Director.

Ron was presented with a framed pencil sketch of a lineman which was appropriate as Ron helped put the poles in the ground of the West Wetaskiwin REA service area many years ago and has shared many tales with the Board and members from those old days. The painting included a plaque commemorating his 22 years.

Ron plans to use his 'spare' time to continue helping his grandson farm.



Pictured (left to right): Vice-Chair Ron Holmlund, Bill Moure, Ron Stevens, Chair Dean Knull, Mike Wollin, Ron Midtdal & wife Leona, and Ken Adair.

Regulated
Rate
Option



The Regulated Rate Option (RRO) 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. It is not a 'regulated' rate, rather is a default rate. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the RRO. For June, 2018 RRO is priced at \$0.05912 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For July, 2018 the RRO is priced at \$0.06800 per kWh.

It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be the West Wetaskiwin REA, regardless of who supplies your electricity. Members will not be disadvantaged in any way based on their retailer choice.

For a list of energy retailers, contact the Utilities Consumer Advocate: 310-4-UCA (310-4822) or www.ucahelps.alberta.ca. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the default Regulated Rate Option (RRO). The RRO rate is listed on www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

Information on West Wetaskiwin's Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com