

Tis the season for hay baling!

Baling hay is a fairly common farm task at this time of year. In addition to following general safe baling, moving and stacking guidelines there are specific cautions to be considered regarding electricity infrastructure (power poles, powerlines and guy-wires).

If you must cross under powerlines during harvest, contact ATCO (1-800-668-2248) to identify powerline height. Then confirm that any equipment you are operating, including the attached load, can clear the line.

Do not load or unload under or near overhead powerlines.

If you are baling near power poles, pay special attention to the guy-wires. If a guy-wire is compromised, please report it. Compromised guy-wires can eventually lead to power pole collapse and possible distribution system disruption.

Hay bales should not be stacked under or near powerlines, poles and guy-wires.

Whenever possible, do not stack bales in a direct line to a power pole in the event the stack moves.

When stacking bales, in particular if they are in any proximity to power poles, be sure they are on even ground so there is no risk a stack loses integrity and bales could roll into power poles or guy-wires.

Remember hay bales are movable objects so when travelling in the field or on roads where power poles are present, ensure loads are properly restrained, travel speed is safe and avoid rough terrain that could cause bales to become unstable.

Regardless of where your hay is stored, make regular checks on all bale stacks to ensure that the stack is in good condition and not in danger of collapse or bales coming loose.



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

Energy Saving Opportunities for Winter Energy Efficiency

Eliminate drafts

Windows and doors are the most likely culprits (as seals and weather stripping wear over time), but be sure to check anywhere connected to the outside, including your basement, attic, and exterior walls. For windows, the seal is tightest when they are locked and/or closed properly and if any daylight is visible underneath your doors, that indicates you might need new weather-stripping. Other major causes for cold drafts include exterior pipes and drains, electrical wall outlets, and chimneys. Make sure everything is sealed and add caulking where necessary. Don't forget your attic, just in case you need to update your insulation or add a seal to the attic door.



Use the daylight

Although it might not seem like the sun is creating heat in the middle of an Alberta winter, it is still able to warm the house up a few degrees during the day. Make sure to open your blinds and curtains when the sun comes up to let in as much daylight as possible. Conversely after the sun goes down, close the curtains to keep the warmth inside. Additionally, natural lighting will allow you to reduce the need to turn on room lights.

Clean your furnace

A regularly cleaned and serviced furnace is not only more energy-efficient, but will also help slow down the accumulation of dust. Check the filter in your furnace regularly (suggested minimally every 3 months) and replace it whenever it is dirty. Unclogged furnaces have better air circulation capabilities and don't have to work as hard. Also make sure all your vents and heating registers are clean and free from obstructions.

Manage systems efficiently

Set the thermostat between 18°C and 20°C before bed and/or reduce the temperature if you are out of the house for the day. When properly set, a thermostat can significantly reduce heating costs. A programmable thermostat can facilitate that task automatically, so take the time to set it properly or consider investing in one.

Avoid overusing exhaust fans as bathroom fans and oven hoods are often-overlooked sources of heat loss in the winter. Use your exhaust fans sparingly, and turn them off when not in use to ensure your home's warmth isn't being pulled away.

Reverse your ceiling fan's blade rotation. Chances are you've never thought about what direction your fan is spinning, but the blades' rotation can actually help you save on your winter heating bill. Hot air rises, so reverse your fan's blades to a clockwise rotation to help push that warmth back down to 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 September 2020, the RRO is priced at \$0.07830 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For October 2020, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.06696. 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