

## Lightning Facts, Cautions and Myths

Despite our relatively short lightning season (June to August), each year 9 to 10 people are killed and between 100 and 150 people are injured by lightning in Canada.

### Did you know that:

- Lightning strikes often occur in the afternoon and 2/3 of all lightning casualties occur between 12-6pm.
- Males are five times more likely than females to be struck by lightning; around 85% of lightning fatalities are men.
- About 1/3 of all lightning injuries occur indoors.

### Be safe - if you hear thunder, take shelter immediately.

- If you cannot find a sturdy, fully enclosed building with wiring and plumbing, get into an all-metal vehicle (not a convertible) as it is the metal cage that protects you from lightning.



- If you are in your car 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 safer inside the car where you can call 911 and report your location.

- If you shelter indoors, stay away from plugged in electrical appliances and equipment and anything else that will conduct electricity, such as doors, windows, sinks, etc.

- 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.

**When thunder roars, GO INDOORS!**

**MYTH!**

Following are some of the common *myths surrounding thunderstorms.*

**1** **If the sky is blue and 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.

**2** **Rubber boots will save you.** Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide no protection from lightning.

**3** **"Heat lightning" occurs after hot summer days and is not a threat.** Actually heat lightning is just lightning from a thunderstorm that is too far away for thunder to be heard.

**4** **Being indoors does not guarantee your safety** so be cautious around anything that can conduct electricity.

#### For Power Troubles:

Battle River Power Coop (our distribution system operator)  
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972

#### For RRO Billing and Account Inquiries:

Battle River Power Coop | Box 1420 Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3  
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972  
E-mail: [brpc@brpower.coop](mailto:brpc@brpower.coop) | Website: [www.brpower.coop](http://www.brpower.coop)

#### For REA Inquiries, New Service and Service Change Requests:

Contact West Wetaskiwin REA, RR #1  
Station Main, Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8  
Tel: 780-335-9378 (WEST)

E-mail: [westwet@telus.net](mailto:westwet@telus.net) | Website: [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com)

For service requests: go to [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com/new-or-changes-to-services.html](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com/new-or-changes-to-services.html)

## Membership in the West Wetaskiwin REA

Membership in the West Wetaskiwin REA is confirmed upon the signing of an Electric Service Contract (ESC). This contract defines the individual who is the owner of the property and therefore has the decision making authority as it relates to their membership and service. This authority includes the right to attend Annual General Meetings, vote for Directors, to make and sign off on any changes to their service and to keep the account from going into arrears.

Accordingly, renters, family members, etc. that may actually be living in, or working on, a member's property and receiving the ongoing electricity service are not authorized to request any modifications to said service.

Furthermore, while the actual invoice for that electricity may be issued in a third party name, the ultimate responsibility for timely payment or any liability resulting from non-payment (e.g., property damage due to suspension of service, etc.) belongs to the member. Also third parties should notify the member of any notifications received on-site from contractors (e.g., door knockers, etc.).

The member (property owner / signatory on the ESC) is the only individual that can make requests and sign off on any work to be done. This would include upgrades, downgrades, pole moves, special brushing requests, and consenting signatures.

To ensure that member rights and authorities are recognized, the REA and our contractors will require

the members' sign off before any modifications are made to an existing service.

We encourage members to review their ESC to ensure a clear understanding of the REA and member relationship and responsibility.

If you cannot locate your ESC, please contact West Wetaskiwin REA via direct email ([westwet@telus.net](mailto:westwet@telus.net)) or via the comment section of the website <[www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com)> <Contact Us>. Our email is checked regularly and responded to in a timely manner.

It is also important to note that West Wetaskiwin REA does not have a "bricks and mortar" office location. Pertinent work for the REA is either completed at Director's homes, at the monthly board meeting or at the domicile of the Secretary. Appointments to view REA documentation or discuss REA affairs can be scheduled via the website <[www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com)> <Contact Us> and will be time and location coordinated depending on the circumstances of the request.



## ABase Meter Upgrading Project

While ABase meters (photo left) were once a mainstay, they are considered an older meter base. To respond to advancing technology that allows for easier meter reading and communications, West Wetaskiwin REA will be replacing some older meters. Members who are scheduled for replacements have been notified and barring any unforeseen circumstances, Battle River Power Coop has confirmed the replacement project is planned to take place between September and December of this year.

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 July 2022, the RRO is priced at \$0.13531 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For August 2022, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate is \$0.17034.

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