



Farm Equipment Safety Tips for Fall Harvest

Upcoming harvest signals the return of farm equipment on public roads and in farmer's fields. Please consider the following when transporting oversized and slow equipment from field to field on public roads.

Make your equipment safe and visible: follow regulated requirements for lighting and signage which include a clean slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign properly positioned on the rear of the tractor or towed vehicle.

Ensure your equipment is well maintained: be sure to complete a safety check of any vehicles that will be travelling on public highways (hitch pins, tire pressure, brakes, etc.).

Follow safe driving tips: travel at a speed that will ensure you can maintain vehicle control, observe road precautions and avoid busy roads / travel times if possible. If traffic is lined up behind you and you move over, be sure the shoulder width is sufficient and solid enough to support your equipment before you make the move.

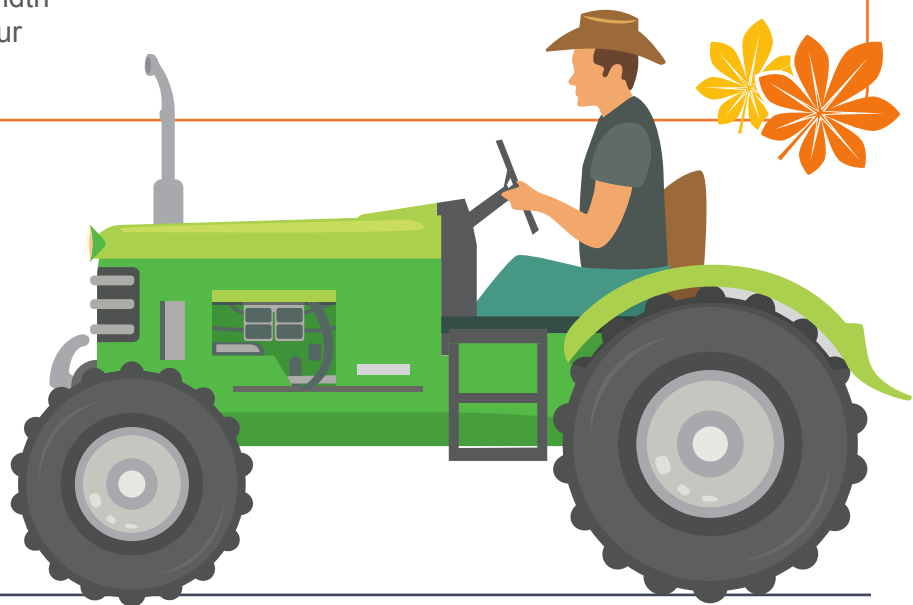
Ensure all drivers have a valid driver's license and are trained how to use equipment and each person in the machine should be secured with a seatbelt.

Remember, the distracted driving law along with other rules of the road is in full effect while driving/towing farm equipment on public roads and highways.

Look Up And Around This Harvest Season: As you head out to your fields for harvest, remember to look up and around to identify where the power poles and powerlines are located.

Farm equipment has increased in size over the years, while powerlines remain a constant height. This translates to a change in distance that an operator must allow between machines and electrical structures.

So this harvest season, West Wetaskiwin REA encourages members to take the time to plan your route and check your surroundings all day/every day to be certain that you can safely navigate around the power poles, power lines and guy wires.



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

Recognize Fatigue

Once harvest has begun, farmers are in for the long haul and fatigue becomes a major concern.

It is important to recognize common symptoms including: feeling sleepy or tired, headaches and dizziness, blurry vision, poor concentration, slow reflexes, feeling irritable, and aching or weak muscles.

Monitoring your own symptoms, and those of employees and contractors, will help mitigate potential accidents. It's important for farmers to recognize things they can do to ward off fatigue such as:

- take regular breaks, even a mini break can work wonders to refresh you
- aim for a good night's sleep every night
- eat nourishing food and stay hydrated
- if someone is working alone, facilitate two-way communication to keep in touch with how the operator is feeling
- dress for comfort and safety
- plan for the demands of the fall harvest, and
- realize when you have had enough and simply stop for a well-deserved break

Fatigue management is different for everyone, but being aware and responding to symptoms is a first step. It takes just a moment to make a decision that could literally be the difference between life and death.



Urban / Rural Annexation Update

Over the last two years, we reported on the application to the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) by FortisAlberta to oblige Rural Electrification Association members, including West Wetaskiwin REA members, to receive services from them as a result of municipal boundary expansion.

Despite coordinated efforts with the Alberta Federation of REAs, the AUC rendered a decision in favor of the application, which also stated, “Existing REA members may continue to be serviced by the REA until the respective municipality passes a bylaw requiring that REA member/resident to transfer to FortisAlberta.”

REAs were hopeful that smaller urban municipalities would not immediately proceed to a by-law; rather they would allow the changeover to occur as land use was modified (a process that has taken place in the past).

However, pursuant to many municipalities enacting by-laws, FortisAlberta has been notifying REAs, to proceed to transfer the pertinent assets to them.

Your Board of Directors will ensure the valuation and eventual transfer of West Wetaskiwin REA assets is completed with the best interests of the membership and we are sorry to be losing members who did not choose to give up their membership and coop advantages.

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 August 2019, RRO is priced at \$0.06800 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For September 2019, the Battle River Power Coop monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.06800; the billing rate charged to WW REA members is \$0.06800.

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