

A safety message from Fenn REA's President, Philip Jarmin

As we embark on another busy seeding season, I would like to take a moment to emphasize the importance of safety when working around power lines and power poles. Your well-being and the well-being of your crew are of utmost importance, and taking precautions can prevent accidents and ensure a successful and incident-free season.

When operating machinery near power lines or power poles, it is crucial to maintain a safe distance. Always be aware of the overhead power lines and ensure that you have a clear understanding of their location on your fields. Make it a priority to identify any potential hazards and mark them accordingly to alert your team.

Remember, even non-metallic equipment or materials can conduct electricity if they contact a power line. Exercise caution and maintain a minimum distance of at least 7 meters (23 feet) from power lines when operating machinery, including seeding equipment. This distance provides a safety buffer and helps prevent accidental contact.

Furthermore, be mindful of power poles located on or near your fields. Avoid colliding with them when maneuvering equipment and always keep a safe distance. Be cautious of any guy wires or overhead equipment associated with the power poles, as they may present additional hazards.

Regularly review and reinforce safety protocols with your team, emphasizing the significance of situational awareness and adherence to established guidelines. Encourage open communication among crew members regarding any concerns or potential hazards they observe.

If you encounter a situation where equipment contacts a power line, remember to stay inside the vehicle or equipment until help arrives. Warn others to stay away

from the area and contact the local electrical utility immediately. They will coordinate with you to safely resolve the situation.

By prioritizing safety around power lines and power poles, we can ensure a productive and incident-free seeding season. Let's take care of ourselves, our teams, and our equipment while working in proximity to these power sources.

Wishing you a safe and successful seeding season!



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

Ensuring Farm Safety Around Power Poles and Lines During Seeding

With the seeding season upon us, several utility companies have responded to a number of farming-related incidents and want to remind members about looking up and being aware of where the power poles and lines are located around fields. One crucial aspect of farm safety is being vigilant around power poles and lines that may be present on or near their fields. It is essential to take proactive measures to prevent accidents and protect both lives and property.

Below are some key considerations to keep in mind regarding farm safety around power poles and lines during seeding:



Identify Potential Hazards: Familiarize yourself and your team with the location of power poles and lines near your fields. Take note of any low-hanging lines or damaged poles that may pose a risk during seeding operations. If you see a broken pole or there are downed lines, do not try and touch the lines to move them. Call your maintenance provider. Downed lines have the potential to be live and can be deadly.

Maintain Safe Distances: Ensure that all farm machinery and equipment maintain a safe distance from power poles and lines while operating in the fields. This includes seeders, sprayers, tillage equipment, and other vehicles. Keep in mind that equipment such as augers can extend higher than you might expect, so exercise caution.

Plan Field Layouts Carefully: When designing field layouts for seeding, consider the presence of power poles and lines. Aim to create wider working areas around them to allow ample clearance for equipment. This pre-planning can help prevent accidental contact or damage.

Height Restrictions: Be aware of any height restrictions imposed by power lines. Large machinery or raised equipment may come dangerously close to overhead lines. Make sure operators are aware of these restrictions and take necessary precautions.

Maintain Communication: Clearly communicate with your team about the location of power poles and lines, emphasizing the importance of avoiding contact. Provide instructions and reminders regularly, and encourage open communication to report any potential hazards or incidents.

Be Alert and Vigilant: While operating machinery, remain alert and watchful for power poles and lines. Keep an eye out for any signs of damaged poles or sagging lines. If you notice any issues, report them promptly to the utility company for assessment and repairs.

Educate and Train: Ensure that all farm workers, including seasonal staff, receive proper training on farm safety protocols, including guidelines specific to power poles and lines. Educate them about the risks, precautions, and emergency procedures to follow in case of an incident.

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 May 2023, the RRO is priced at \$0.14207 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For June 2023, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.19239. The RRO rate is also listed on www.fennrea.com.

Members are free to purchase natural gas services or 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).