

**Our goal is to reduce
the number and length
of power outages our
customers experience
as a result of
lightning strikes.**

**FORTIS
ALBERTA**

toll-free

(9473)

310-WIRE

www.fortisalberta.com

06-306-08

May to September is

**Lightning
Season**

**FORTIS
ALBERTA**

Preparing for Lightning Season – May to September

Alberta's foothills area is one of Canada's hot spots for lightning, with 1.2 million strikes in 2007. FortisAlberta, your electric distribution service provider, has more than 106,000 kilometres of mostly overhead power lines that can be affected by lightning and create power outages. While we build lightning protection equipment into our system to help minimize outages, Mother Nature remains our greatest challenge.



We make every effort to prepare for lightning season and reduce the number and length of outages. Our Contact Centre and Dispatch teams try to handle each call personally. During high call volumes we also rely on an automated system to answer calls and track outages. If you reach this automated message and you are not recognized as calling from your primary phone number, it will prompt you to enter a contact number. You would only be called back if verification is required for the location of your outage.

We appreciate your patience during outages. We dispatch technicians 24-hours-a-day and if you need an update, please call us at 310-WIRE (9473).

During storms, it is also important to take the following precautions to keep you and your property safe:

Prepare your electrical equipment and appliances:

- Before the storm hits, disconnect electronics and electrical appliances including radios, television sets and microwaves. Do not touch them during the storm. Unfortunately, you cannot disconnect your satellite dish.

Stay safe indoors:

- Remain indoors if possible.
- Keep away from doors, windows, fireplaces and anything that will conduct electricity such as radiators, stoves, sinks and metal pipes.
- Only use battery-operated appliances. Don't handle electrical equipment or telephones. Cell phones are the safest method of communication.

Take precautions outdoors:

- Take shelter when you can count 30 seconds or less between lightning and thunder. Remain sheltered for 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.
- Stay away from tall objects like trees, hilltops and poles. Seek shelter in low-lying areas like valleys and ditches but be aware of flooding.
- Stay away from water. Don't go boating or swimming or stand in puddles.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity like tractors, golf carts, golf clubs, metal fences, motorcycles, lawn mowers and bicycles.
- Avoid being the highest point in an open area. Do not hold a golf club, fishing rod or umbrella.
- You are safe inside a car but don't park under trees or power lines, as they could come down during a severe storm.
- If you are caught on a level field far from shelter and you feel your hair stand on end, lightning may be about to hit you. Kneel on the ground immediately, with your feet together, place your hands on your knees and bend forward – minimize your contact with the ground. Don't lie down.

Visit Canada's emergency preparedness website at

www.getprepared.gc.ca

to prepare you and your family for emergency situations.