



# News Release

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ATCO ELECTRIC

Corporate Head Office: 10035 - 105 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2V6

August 26, 2011

## **BIG FARM EQUIPMENT = BIG TROUBLE NEAR POWER LINES**

ATCO Electric asks farmers to call before moving tall equipment near power lines

EDMONTON, Alberta – ATCO Electric reminds its farm customers to plan ahead and call their local ATCO Electric office before moving tall farm equipment near power lines. Some farm equipment is taller than power lines - posing a serious safety risk to the farmer.

“Contact with a power line is 100 per cent preventable. ATCO Electric’s farm customers are encouraged to call us to plan a safe route through their fields, farmyards and nearby roads,” said Bobbi Lambright, President, Operations Division, ATCO Electric. This service is also available to customers of the Rural Electrification Associations (REA) operated by ATCO Electric.

Contacting a power line can be fatal. Last year in Alberta, four farmers lost their lives after their farm equipment came into contact with an overhead power line. While there were no fatalities in its service territory, already this year ATCO Electric has recorded 40 incidents of farm equipment contacting power poles and power lines. This compares to 58 incidents in all of 2010. In addition to the safety risk, contact with a power line can also lead to damage or loss of equipment and power outages.

A safety incentive is available to farm customers who call to request assistance before moving their tall farm equipment near or under power lines. Any customer moving agricultural equipment may be eligible to receive up to four hours of free ATCO Electric labour per move. ATCO Electric will determine power line heights on nearby roads, between fields and on farms and raise the lines to allow equipment to safely travel under them where required.

For more information, call the ATCO Electric Customer Assistance Centre at 1-800-668-2248, Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

ATCO Electric provides safe, reliable delivery of electricity to nearly 211,000 customers in 245 communities across Alberta and is part of the ATCO Group of Companies. ATCO Group, with more than 8,000 employees and assets of approximately \$11 billion, delivers service excellence and innovative business solutions worldwide with leading companies engaged in Utilities, Energy, Structures & Logistics, and Technologies. More information about ATCO can be found on its website, [www.atco.com](http://www.atco.com).

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