

Talk Led By: _____

Date: _____

Site/Location: _____

Time: _____

Weather Report/Conditions:

_____ High: _____ °C Wind Speed: _____ km/hr
_____ Low: _____ °C Wind Gusts: _____ km/hr

Lightning Safety

Severe storms can develop quickly in Alberta, bringing with them high winds, hail and lightning. Lightning is unpredictable and can travel several kilometres away from the storm cloud itself.

There are several different ways you can protect yourself and others on your farm from lightning, such as:

- Check the weather reports frequently and plan your work accordingly. If there is a risk of a storm, do not start a task that cannot be stopped quickly.
- If you or others on your farm do happen to get caught in a severe storm, try to find shelter. If possible, take shelter in a building. If you are caught out in field and have a truck or tractor with a cab nearby, close the windows and wait in there (do not touch metal or electronic parts inside). It is recommended to remain sheltered for at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder.
- If you find yourself outdoors and without a building, vehicle or tractor, there may be little that you can do to protect yourself from a lightning strike. This is makes it so important to go to a safe place at the first signs of an approaching thunderstorm. To reduce your risk of being struck by lightning in this situation, consider the following:
 - Lightning is likely to strike the tallest objects in an area, make sure you are not one of them!
 - Avoid things such as isolated tall trees, hilltops, power poles, etc.
 - Avoid open areas, such as a field.
 - Avoid wire fencing, as lightning can travel long distances through it.
 - Get away from bodies of water (water does not attract lightning, but it does conduct electricity).
 - Find dense areas of smaller trees surrounded by larger trees.
 - Find low lying areas, such as a ditch or valley, but watch for flooding.
 - Sheds and tents do not provide adequate protection from lightning.

Did You Know?¹

- If you can hear thunder, lightning is a threat to your safety.
- Lightning can deliver up to 100 million volts of electricity.
- Lightning kills approximately 10 Canadians each year and injures even more.
- Lightning causes more fatalities in Canada annually than hail, rain, flooding, wind, tornadoes and hurricanes combined.
- Rubber footwear and tires do not offer significant protection from lightning.



Additional Topics/Discussion:

Might include task/job details, hazards and hazard controls, worksite specific emergency response, etc.

Attendance:

Print Name	Position/Trade/Company	Sign Name
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Sources: ¹Government of Alberta. March 2020. *Thunderstorms, lightning, and hail*. Accessed November 19, 2021 from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/fc4b3561-73e0-4dd3-8554-c995d9ece0ab/resource/104405d8-5435-4511-b52c-420b7357784f/download/ma-thunderstorms-lightning-hail-fact-sheet.pdf>