

Is smart meter RF exposure safe? Yes.

People are continuously exposed to a very low levels of natural and man-made radio frequency fields, or RF. Even the earth's surface and the human body are constant sources of RF fields.

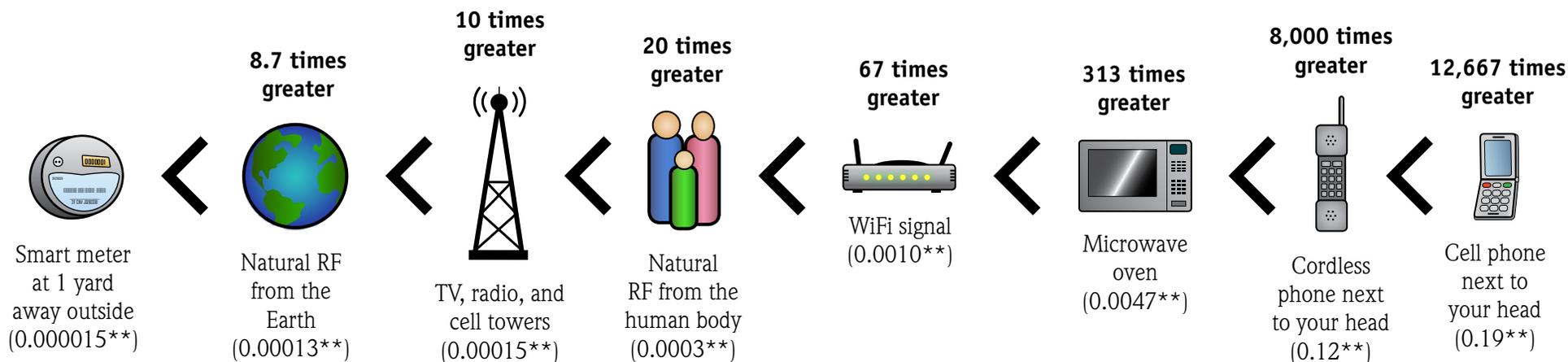
Smart meters send information about home electricity use to Western Coop by RF signals. The exposure from the smart meters are of much lower power than other common sources for two reasons: 1) infrequent signal transmission, and 2) distance. On a daily basis, Western's smart meters emit power for less than one minute per day. In addition, these meters are typically placed outdoors, with a wall separating the meter from the living space. This combination of placement and infrequent operation means that you would need to be within one foot of 7,000 smart meters all communicating at the same time to reach the FCC exposure limit.

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Dr. Shkolnikov has published over 25 peer-reviewed papers on electrical engineering topics such as semiconductor physics and electrical-safety and has participated in numerous technical conferences on medical device analysis and semiconductors. He has a patent pending on security of RFID cards, and has filed several provisional patents filings on cell phone power management, RFID technology, and mechanical strain sensing.

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RF exposures from smart meters are much lower than other RF sources*



* Based on the FCC average exposure standard which averages exposure over 30 minutes of usage (47CFR1.1310 averaging)

** Measured in milliwatts per square centimeter (mW/cm²)

Here are some facts about Western's smart meters and RF fields:

1. The FCC limit for RF exposure is 1 milliwatt per square centimeter (mW/cm^2)
2. At 20 inches in front of a meter, the average exposure to radio frequency signals is less than the background radio frequency signals naturally generated by the earth, and less than one-seven-thousandth of the safe exposure standard set by the Federal Communications Commission.
3. Exposure to RF is significantly reduced by buildings. At one yard in front of the meter on a typical day, inside your home, your exposure is miniscule — more than 1.3 million times below the FCC standard.