

Electrical Distribution Safety

DISTRIBUTION COMPANY AWARENESS:

Electricity Act changes affecting LDCs, in regards to Marijuana Grow Operations, came into effect Aug. 3rd 2006. There has been inconsistent and partially compliance by many LDC, to the amended Electricity Act. This Bulletin has been created to make LDCs aware of their requirements and to ensure full compliance.

ACT TITLES:

Bill 128 2004: **An Act to amend various Acts with respect to enforcement powers, penalties and the management of property forfeited, or that may be forfeited, to the Crown in right of Ontario as a result of organized crime, marijuana growing and other unlawful activities.**

Short title of this Act is: **Law Enforcement and Forfeited Property Management Statute Law Amendment Act, 2004.**

ELECTRICITY ACT AMENDMENTS:

Part III of the *Electricity Act, 1998* is amended by adding the following section:

Emergency termination of service

31.1 (1) A distributor may shut off the distribution of electricity to a property without notice if the distributor has reason to believe that a condition exists in respect of the property that threatens or is likely to threaten,

- a) **the safety of any person; or**
- b) **the reliability of all or part of the distribution system.**

Notice

(2) The distributor shall,

- a) **give the Electrical Safety Authority written notice of the shut-off under subsection (1) as soon as possible afterwards; and**
- b) **post a notice of the shut-off under subsection (1) in a conspicuous place on the property within 10 days afterwards.**

HOW TO CONTACT ESA:

When a facility's electrical service is disconnected because it is a Marijuana Grow Operation, please notify ESA's Customer Service Center:

- o Telephone: 1-877-372-7233 Fax: 1-800-667-4278
- o Email: esa.cambridge@electricalsafety.on.ca.

SAFETY AND LIABILITY RISKS:

Marijuana Grow Operations have become a significant problem in our communities. Following the requirements of the Electricity Act will enable us to advise ESA Inspectors of the potentially dangerous situation they may be encountering. Once the facility is cleaned up and ready to be occupied, ESA inspects the facility for electrical hazards and authorizes the LDC to reconnect the service. For more information on Connection Authorization, please see DIB-03/06.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

If you can provide additional information on this Bulletin or any other Utility issue, please contact ESA to share your experiences. Additional information requests, and follow-up information, may be directed to ESA. Please be prepared to quote Bulletin "DIB-01/07".