

Electrical Distribution Safety

GENERAL STATEMENT:

There have been a number of unsafe temporary services installed and signed off as part of the LDC inspection process as “no undue hazard”. In these situations the LDC is not compliant with section 4 and section 8 of O. Reg. 22/04. Within the last year, one installation resulted in a near miss in which an unaware home owner cut an unprotected temporary service cable with a snow blower, another installation; a non-LDC temporary service cable resulted in a fatality.

SAFETY AWARENESS:

Crews installing temporary services as an alternative to restoring power to a customer due to an underground “burn off” must install the service in a safe manner and not expose members of the public to a hazard.

Common hazards ESA has found are:

- Service cables laid on the ground unprotected and unbarriered
- Unbarriered overhead service cable without adequate clearance.
- Service cables entering side of meter base with no box connector exposing live terminals to the public
- Temporary service cable not identified and barriered
- Homeowner unaware of temporary service on residential property
- Members of the public exposed to accessible bare neutral conductor



ESA RECOMMENDS:

- LDCs create standards and practices for the installation of temporary services or follow applicable clauses in OESC section 66 or section 76 and
- Review the definition of “No undue hazard” or “site left in safe condition” (as per the LDC Construction Verification Program) with staff involved in the installation of temporary services and staff who inspect the installation.

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 “DSB-02/08”.