

Electrical Distribution Safety

GENERAL STATEMENT:

LDCs have a legal obligation set out in O. Reg. 22/04 to manage vegetation around all LDC owned overhead conductors including secondary. There have been a number of incidents and public safety concerns due to trees in direct contact with powerlines. One incident involved tree branches pushing the LDC owned secondary service against the eaves trough of a home, wearing away the service insulation and energizing the eaves trough. This resulted in the homeowner receiving an electric shock causing injury when a ladder was placed against the eaves trough. ESA is also concerned that the number of powerline contacts by DIY homeowners and arborist trimming trees near powerlines continues to increase.

O. Regulation 22/04 states:

- Section 4(4) “All overhead distribution lines, **including secondary distribution lines**, shall meet the following safety standards... (3) Energized conductors and live parts shall be barriered such that vegetation, equipment or unauthorized persons do not come in contact with them or draw arcs under reasonably foreseeable circumstances.”



ESA RECOMMENDS:

- LDCs review and modify as necessary their Conditions of Service to ensure it aligns with O. Reg. 22/04
- Ensure LDC tree trimming practices and other measures be taken to meet the obligations set out in O. Reg. 22/04

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-02/09”.