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### Electrical Distribution Safety

#### **DISTRIBUTION COMPANY AWARENESS:**

Theft of copper has increased over the last few years and LDCs need to be aware of the reasons and potential hazards. Copper theft affects the public safety, LDC worker safety, the reliability of the power distribution, and decreases the protection capability of the system.

#### **COPPER THEFT:**

LDC copper theft has increased up to 10 fold, in some areas. According to numerous Ontario policing agencies, copper theft has become one of the fastest growing forms of crime in the Province of Ontario. The price of copper has tripled in the past three years, making it an attractive commodity for thieves. At present, most cities have one or more scrap metal centres, accepting aluminum and copper for cash with few questions asked.



#### **SUBSTATION INSPECTIONS:**

LDC maintenance inspections and ESA's Due Diligence Inspections (DDIs) have identified numerous instances where copper has been stolen from substation fences. The copper taken includes the fence bonding to the ground grid and the interconnections between fence sections. Regular LDC substation maintenance inspections should identify stations where copper theft has occurred. Where the LDC is aware of a copper theft immediate action is required to address the imminent hazard.

#### **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-06/07".