
Electrical Distribution Safety

TECHNICAL AWARENESS – GROUNDING AND POLES

This Bulletin supplies information that LDCs should consider when installing grounding electrodes, such as ground rods, close to their poles. Typically good utility practice shows a minimum 50cm clearance from the pole. Reasons for a clearance to the pole include the following:

- A pole's wicking action around the pole can draw moisture away from soil surrounding the pole and as a result may change local soil resistivity
- Pole movement can reduce surface pressure and soil contact
- Backfill material may have higher resistivity than surrounding native soil. Placing the ground electrode in high resistance backfill material will increase resistivity. This could affect the ability of the ground to maintain neutral voltage levels, and affect the dissipation of current from lightning and ground faults.



ESA RECOMMENDS:

ESA recommends LDCs follow standards, specifications and maintenance practices to ensure good ground connections now and in the future.

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 "DTB-05/06".