



Information for Homeowners Needing Electrical Repairs Done *The Electrical Safety Authority Provides Information on Process*

MISSISSAUGA, ON/ Dec. 26, 2013 – Many Ontario homeowners may need to have electrical repairs done as a result of damage from the recent ice storm. Here are the critical elements to ensuring electrical work is done legally and safely:

Hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor

If you are hiring someone to do electrical work in your home, they must be a Licensed Electrical Contractor. General handymen and other service providers cannot do electrical work in Ontario residences unless they hold a Licence.

To search for a Licensed Electrical Contractor, go to www.esasafe.com and click on ‘Find a Licensed Electrical Contractor in My Area.’ Also, a Licensed Electrical Contractor is required to display their ESA/ECRA licence number. Ask to see it.

Permits

An electrical permit needs to be taken out before or within 48 hours of when the electrical work starts. If you’re doing the electrical work yourself, you need to take out the permit. If you hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor, they must take out the permit. Do not take out a permit on behalf of a contractor or anyone else.

To confirm permit requirements and to get your permit, call 1-877-ESA-SAFE (372-7233). The Electrical Safety Authority call centre has established emergency open hours from noon to 7 p.m. on December 26.

Inspections

ESA's expert Inspectors will review the electrical work. If the work is done safely and in compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, ESA will issue a certificate of inspection. If your contractor took out the permit, get a copy of the certificate from them. Keep a copy for your records and your insurance company.

Reconnection of Power

Once the inspection is complete, ESA will advise the local distribution company that it is safe to reconnect power.

For more information on electrical safety when stormy weather hits, visit: www.esasafe.com/powerlinesafety/your-community/winter-storm-safety.

About the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is an administrative authority acting on behalf of the Government of Ontario with specific responsibilities under the Electricity Act and the Safety and Consumer Statutes Administration Act. As part of its mandate, ESA is responsible for administering regulation in four key areas: the Ontario Electrical Safety Code; licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians; electrical distribution safety; and electrical product safety.

For more information contact:

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1-800-498-4600 or 905-712-7819