

DEFECT OF THE MONTH

September 2018

Make Safe unused Conductors – Rule 12-114

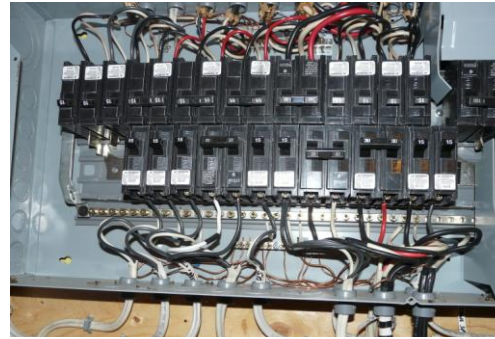


Over the past year, ESA inspectors have identified over 2,000 defects regarding unsafe and abandoned wiring inside and outside of electrical enclosures. Rule 12-114 of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) requires the ends of insulated conductors, which are not in use, at switches, outlets and other electrical enclosures to be insulated (capped, covered, etc.).

In many cases, especially identified in installations where there are renovations, equipment may be removed and related wiring left behind. This wiring might be later inadvertently energized, creating a shock or fire hazard.

Unused wiring shall be properly terminated, or removed. Wiring that is concealed and inaccessible shall be cut off where exposed so as to be too short to be reused.

A potential fire hazard is also possible if the electrical device fails in close proximity to combustible. For example, a receptacle with missing cover plate may cause the adjacent wood panels to catch on fire in event of failure. The cover would usually mitigate that hazard.



ESA strongly recommends maintenance staff and facility operators perform periodic inspection to ensure unused openings in electrical enclosures are filled properly, as well all cover plates on electrical devices are in place.