

PLUGGED **ED** **in**

News, Views and Updates from the Electrical Safety Authority

Fall 2014

Unlicensed contractor gets

JAIL TIME



A strong message to repeat offenders whose actions put public safety at risk.

p.7



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Our Mission:

To improve electrical safety for the well-being of the people of Ontario.

Our Vision:

An Ontario free of electrical fatalities and serious injury, damage or loss.

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Convictions of Unlicensed Electrical Contractors:

Construction G, Gatineau

- Installed signs and portable connections – multiple sites
- \$26,000 fine, plus \$6,500 victim surcharge – no EC licence, 13 counts
 - \$16,000 fine, plus \$4,000 victim surcharge – failure to apply, 8 counts
 - \$5,000 fine, plus \$1,250 victim surcharge – leaving unsafe conditions, 1 count

Martin Laprade, Gatineau

- Wired two new houses, installed signs
- \$10,000 fine, plus \$2,500 victim surcharge – no EC licence, 2 counts
 - \$5,000 fine, plus \$1,250 victim surcharge – leaving unsafe conditions, 1 count

Andrew Gallino, Oakville

- Panel change and basement renovation
- \$2,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – no EC licence
 - \$2,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – advertising electrical services

JK Renovations and Builder, Toronto

- Apartment renovation
- \$500 fine, plus victim surcharge – no EC licence

Iron Engineering, Hampton

- Installed grain elevator
- \$500 fine, plus victim surcharge – no EC licence
 - \$500 fine, plus victim surcharge – failure to apply

The Reno Men, Richmond Hill

- Kitchen renovation
- \$1,000 fine, plus \$250 victim surcharge – no EC licence
 - \$1,000 fine, plus \$250 victim surcharge – failure to apply

Jordan Shoniker, Kingston

- Wiring new home under permit taken by homeowner
- \$500 fine, plus \$125 victim surcharge – no EC licence

Yvon Richer, Ottawa

- Panel change
- \$1,000 fine, plus \$250 victim surcharge – no EC licence
 - \$1,000 fine, plus \$250 victim surcharge – failure to apply

Enio Dolcetti, Sturgeon Falls

- Installed generator without a permit
- \$2,000 fine, plus victim surcharge – no EC licence, 2 counts
 - \$1,000 fine, plus victim surcharge – leaving unsafe condition

Danny Dugan, Barry's Bay

- Industrial renovation under permit taken by company
- \$1,000 fine, plus \$250 victim surcharge – no EC licence

Family Discount Flooring Inc., Val Caron

- Residential renovation under permit taken by homeowner
- \$3,000 fine, plus victim surcharge – no EC licence

Naim Hamid, Brampton

- Replaced electrical furnace without a permit
- \$1,500 fine, plus \$375 victim surcharge – no EC licence
 - suspended sentence – failure to apply

Albino Electrical Services, Toronto

- New house
- \$2,500 fine, plus \$625 victim surcharge – no EC licence, 2 counts

Electrical D, Woodbridge

- Wiring irrigation system
- \$550 fine, plus victim surcharge – no EC licence
 - \$250 fine, plus victim surcharge – advertising electrical services

Willy Miranda, Toronto

- Residential renovation – two sites
- \$10,000 fine, plus \$2,500 victim surcharge – no EC licence, 2 counts

Convictions of Licensed Electrical Contractors:

NM Electric, Ottawa

- Took permits for unlicensed contractor
- \$6,000 fine, plus \$1,500 victim surcharge – permitting unauthorized individual to do electrical work, 6 counts

Burlington Electric, Burlington

- Working without a permit
- \$2,000 fine, plus victim surcharge, 4 counts

Raymond Electric, Harrowsmith

- Working without a permit
- \$500 fine, plus \$110 victim surcharge – failure to apply for inspection

If you are aware of anyone doing electrical work in violation of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code or electrical contractor licensing regulations, report it to ESA at 1-877-372-7233 or at esasafer.com. ESA looks into every such report we receive.



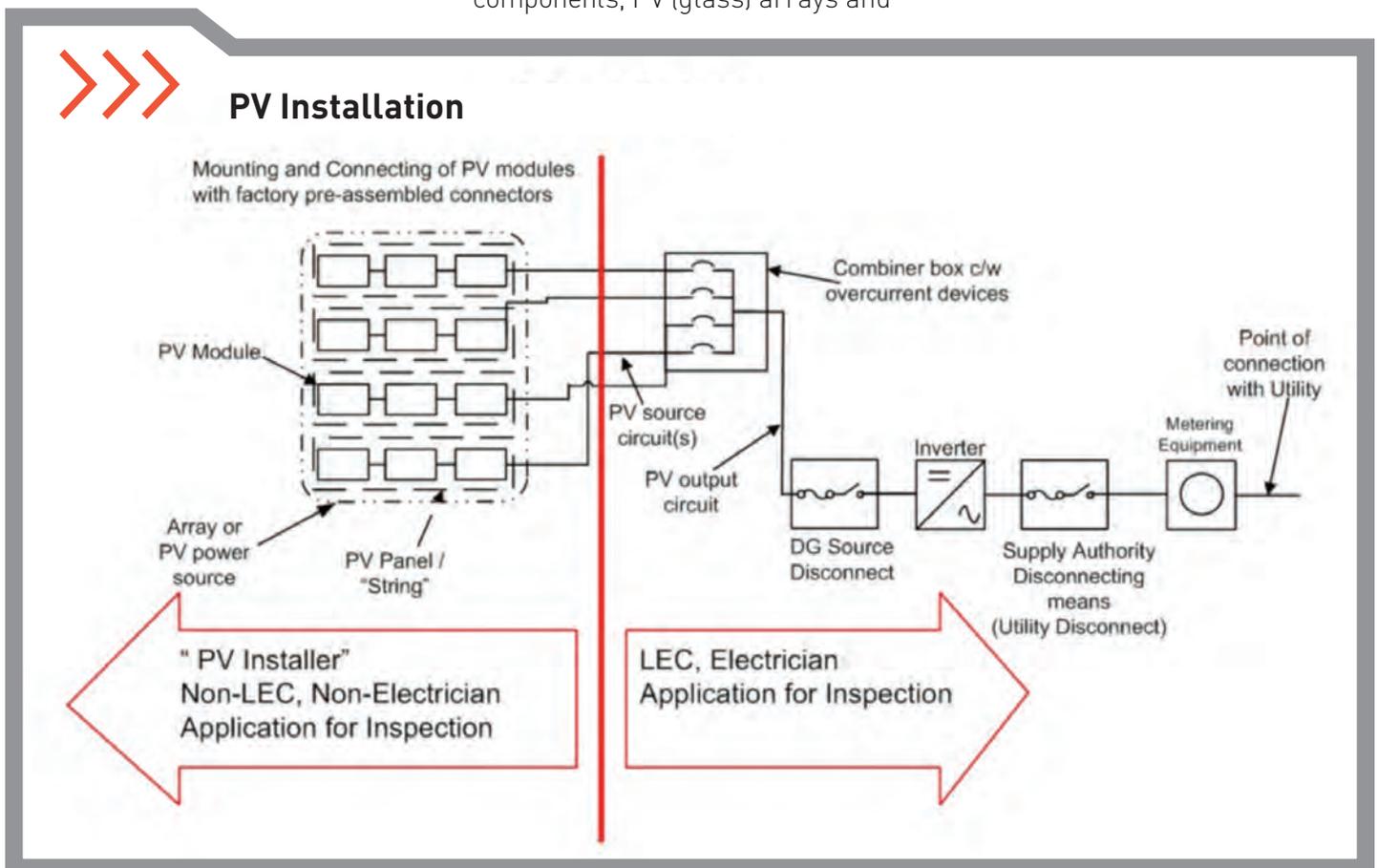
When is an electrical permit required for solar work?

The person who does the electrical work on solar panel installations does not determine if an electrical permit is required. Instead, the type of electrical work does. Advances in Photovoltaic (PV) system design include so-called 'plug 'n play' components such as micro inverters, snap-on bonding frames and MC4 connectors. Determining who can perform the work sometimes contributes to a misunderstanding of whether a permit is required.

In 2013, an Ontario College of Trades (OCOT) ruling allowed non-electricians to perform some work when installing PV systems. The complete ruling is below, but essentially, 'plug 'n play' components, such as MC4 connectors, can be installed by non-electrical workers, provided the worker has appropriate health and safety training and proof of training to install solar panels, which Ministry of Labour (MOL) enforces. OCOT is silent on permit matters as that is not its area of jurisdiction. Because 'plug 'n play' components, PV (glass) arrays and

any other PV equipment related to solar generation **are part of an electrical installation**, OESC Rule 2-004 applies. **2-004 states an application for inspection, i.e. a permit, is required.**

The overall PV system includes more than 'plug 'n play' components. Hazard considerations may exist with rating of inverters and combiners, bonding, placement of wires, product approval, conductor usage, and installation of the modules themselves.



2014 Ontario Electrical Safety Awards

Electrical Safety Leaders Honoured at Ontario Electrical Safety Awards

Electrical safety partnerships play a significant role in ensuring that Ontario is a safe place to work, live and play. Many individuals' and organizations' safety efforts were honoured on Sept. 30, 2014 with the presentation of the 2014 Ontario Electrical Safety Awards recognizing exceptional contributions in three categories.

Ontario's Deputy Minister of Government and Consumer Services, Wendy Tilford, joined the Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA's) Chair of the Board Charlie Cipolla, President and CEO David Collie, and Chief Public Safety Officer, Scott Saint, to present the awards to this year's recipients.

"ESA's goal is to eliminate electrical fatalities and injuries in Ontario and ensure the highest level of public electrical safety," said Scott Saint, Chief Public Safety Officer, Electrical Safety Authority. "The effort of this year's winners to educate both workers and members of the public on important safety messages ensures we are that much closer to reaching our goal of getting to zero."

The awards were established five years ago to formally acknowledge the important contributions of individuals and organizations toward reducing electrical fatalities, serious injuries and loss.

Chief Public Safety Officer's Special Recognition for Electrical Safety

Ted Wieclawek, Ontario Fire Marshal and Chief, Emergency Management (OFMEM) & the OFMEM team

The Ontario Fire Marshal and Chief, Emergency Management (OFMEM) and the OFMEM team was recognized for their strong commitment to placing electrical safety at the core of the storm relief during the 2013 Ice Storm.



L-R: Scott Saint, Chief Public Safety Officer & Vice President, Regulatory and Safety Programs and Ted Wieclawek, Ontario Fire Marshal, Chief, Emergency Management Ontario



The Ontario Electrical Safety Awards recognized individuals and organizations in the following three categories:

Powerline Safety



L-R: Deputy Minister, Wendy Tilford, Ministry of Government & Consumer Services, Mark Henderson, PowerStream EVP Asset Management and Chief Operating Officer, Charlie Cipolla, Chair, ESA

PowerStream

PowerStream received the award for its exceptional efforts in promoting powerline safety initiatives directed at both consumers and workers over the past year. They achieved this through consistent powerline safety messaging targeted to consumers on PowerStream's website, social media channels and through printed materials distributed at events.

Worker Safety



L-R Deputy Minister, Wendy Tilford, Ministry of Government & Consumer Services, Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Kingston, Jim Keech, President & Chief Executive Officer, Utilities Kingston, Charlie Cipolla, Chair, ESA

Utilities Kingston & the City of Kingston

Utilities Kingston & City of Kingston were honoured for their ongoing commitment to hosting annual Safety Days for employees and contractors who work for Utilities Kingston. The Safety Days provide information about safe work practices, including topics such as Safe Limits of Approach and the importance of 'Calling Before you Dig' to avoid underground cables. The overall goal is to improve safety in the workplace.

Consumer/Home Safety



L-R: Deputy Minister, Wendy Tilford, Ministry of Government & Consumer Services, Bryce Conrad, President & CEO, Hydro Ottawa, Charlie Cipolla, Chair, ESA

Hydro Ottawa

Hydro Ottawa received the Consumer/Home Safety award for the development of its electrical safety and energy conservation educational program for elementary school children in the Ottawa and surrounding areas. The program teaches elementary students how to use electricity safely and wisely. The information is provided through free programs that highlight cautionary real-life stories and demonstrations in both official languages.

If you know of an individual or organization that would be a good candidate for an Ontario Electrical Safety Award please visit esasafe.com/about-esa/electrical-safety-awards for more information.



Managing wiring services

Call centre calls answered	125,660
Inspections	107,033
Defects recorded	57,402
General inspections	2,297
ACP contractors	2,402

Wiring compliance and enforcement

Hazard investigation requests	3,011
Notices of violation	93

Preventing hazards and harms

CSS customers (26,193 sites)	4,063
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Product safety

Reported electrical product safety incidents	77
Recalled product notifications (triaged by Health Canada)*	6
Products recalled	2

Licensing management

Licensed Electrical Contractors	7,357
Master Electricians	12,080
Complaints received	400
Complaints resolved	349

Safety materials distributed

Powerline and worker safety, LEC campaign	8,726
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Electrical distribution management

Distribution-related incidents	47
Compliance audits	27

**In 2011, the federal Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA) administered by Health Canada came into effect, outlining the responsibilities of industry across Canada for consumer product safety, including mandatory incident reporting and document retention.*

As a result, on Apr. 15, 2013, Health Canada fully took over all responsibility for assessment and investigation of incoming consumer electrical product reports. In this case, consumer product safety reports are triaged through Health Canada's process. This does not include reports received concerning industrial electrical products and unapproved or counterfeit electrical products.

safety alerts + recalls

RCL13-033 Electronic Distributors International Inc. Recalls Solar Panels

Certain panels have internal invisible defects that could create hot spots or cause a short circuit current posing fire or burn hazards.

Some panels sold into the Ontario market could have a tear, hole or cut in their back sheet. This tear may expose conductors that, if touched, could cause an electric shock or electrocution.



RCL14-01 Fluke Recalls 11x Series Multimeters Due to Potential of Fire or Arc Explosion

The internal audible beeper may come apart and release a metal disk inside the enclosure. A fire or arc explosion could result from the short circuit of input terminals or protective impedance when measuring main voltages.



RCL14-02 Panasonic Recalls Replacement Battery Pack (CF-VZSU53AW) for Use with Panasonic Toughbook Tablet CF-H1, CF-H2, and CF-U1 Due to Potential of Fire

Due to a manufacturing issue, a small quantity of the replacement battery pack (CF-VZSU53AW) may heat up abnormally and ignite in rare instances.



To learn more about recent product recalls and safety alerts please click on the link on the main page of the ESA website.

Repeat Offender Receives First Ever JAIL SENTENCE for Doing Electrical Work

Most unlicensed contractors would never expect that their illegal electrical work would land them in jail. But in a landmark decision, an Ontario court justice handed down a sentence in Hamilton on Oct. 2, 2014 that did just that

Richard Hazel, a repeat offender, was sentenced to 30 days in jail and received \$6,250 in fines on charges related to performing electrical work illegally and violating several Ontario College of Trades (OCOT) requirements. This is the first time a jail sentence has been handed down by an Ontario court for this type of offence. Hazel was also placed on two years' probation.

Hazel, operating as Voltcom Electrical Services, was found guilty on eight charges: four counts of working without an electrical contractor's licence, one count

of failing to obtain the required inspections, two counts of producing a false certificate of qualification, and one count of leaving behind unsafe electrical conditions at four homes in Hamilton and Burlington.

Hazel was no stranger to performing illegal electrical work. He was previously convicted in 2012 on 19 counts of violating electrical safety regulations at seven sites in the Windsor area resulting in a total fine of \$23,750.

In addition to the ESA charges, Hazel pleaded guilty to five related charges laid by the OCOT and was fined an additional \$7,400 plus one year probation for those offences. In October 2013, an ESA Inspector identified a renovation in a Hamilton home had been done without a permit and determined upon further investigation that repeat offender

Richard Hazel had completed the work. Numerous electrical hazards were found. The investigation also found that Hazel falsely produced an OCOT certificate of qualification in order to gain employment with two licensed electrical contractors.

"The court has delivered a strong, clear message with this conviction and sentence: repeated, unlawful behaviour that puts public safety at risk has serious consequences. Despite previous convictions, this individual continued to flout the law," said Normand Breton, General Manager, Registrar and Director Contractor Licensing and Powerline Safety. "We are very pleased to see that the court has taken this important next step which we hope will deter others in the underground economy who are working outside the law."

Notation: Voltcom Inc. operating in Burlington is a Licensed Electrical Contractor that is in no way affiliated with this case.

Wiring Fees Increase Effective Jan. 20, 2015

ESA will be implementing an average 1.9% wiring fee increase effective Jan. 20, 2015. Following consideration of stakeholder feedback, ESA has set the fee adjustment at the rate of inflation.

Wiring fees cover the costs of processing wiring permits, inspections of wiring work and enforcement of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, investigations of Code violations, enforcement efforts against illegal work, maintaining

and updating the Code to cover technological or marketplace changes, and public awareness efforts re: safe electrical work, among other related activities.

More information on how ESA uses wiring fees can be found in the Summary Report to Contractors, available at esasafe.com.

Earlier this year, ESA consulted with stakeholders on proposed fee changes via our councils and

through an open call for comment. We thank everyone who participated in these consultations and appreciate all feedback received. Information on the consultation process including feedback received can be found on ESA's website.

A copy of the updated fee guide will be available online shortly. Should you have any questions, please contact the Customer Service Centre at 1-877-372-7233.

Fall LEC Campaign

ESA's fall Licensed Electrical Contractor campaign took place from October 14 until November 14. The campaign targeted people considering home renovations, particularly those who are likely to hire someone to do the work, including the electrical. Advertising messages remind prospective renovators that there are no small mistakes when it comes to electrical work – and the consequences could be a shock or a fire leading to serious injury, death or property loss.

New: Interactive Online Game

New for this year's campaign is the Hazardous Homes interactive digital game that helped Ontarians understand the risks associated with electrical work done incorrectly. Building on the success of the Powerline Deadly Dozen, ESA asked Ontarians to help solve some cases inside nine Hazardous Homes! Correct responses earn an entry into a contest to win a weekly prize of a \$100 gift card or the grand prize of a \$1,000 gift card.



Visit HazardousHomes.ca to try and solve the cases.

OESC Update

The planned effective date of the 26th edition of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) is May 2016.

The OESC includes the Canadian Electrical Code (CEC), which is developed by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). The CEC is a voluntary document and its requirements can become mandatory only when adopted into legislation or regulation by a government entity. (For more information on the CEC, refer to the CSA website.) Ontario adopts the CEC as one part of the OESC. The other part of the OESC consists of a series of Ontario-specific amendments, which include a set of administrative or technical rules.

ESA is currently working on the proposed changes to the Ontario amendments. ESA will hold two public consultations on the amendments between September 2014 and March 2015.

The first public consultation is on the amendments to Section 75 of the OESC. Section 75 covers the requirements for overhead primary and secondary powerline installations, poles and pole-mounted electrical equipment that are not owned by a Local Distribution Company (LDC).

The public consultation for Section 75 ran from Sept. 18, 2014 to Nov. 3, 2014. The proposed amendments, a background on the OESC and

instructions are available on the ESA website. esasafe.com/about-esa/stakeholder-engagement/consultations.

The second public consultation will take place from January 2015 to March 2015, and will seek feedback on all other Ontario amendments to the CEC. Some of the Ontario amendments are being considered to clarify administrative rules and align with other Ontario regulations, (e.g. Ontario Building Code and TSSA). Details on the second consultation will be sent closer to these dates.

Should you have any questions about this timeline, please email OESC2015@electricalsafety.on.ca

What's Happening

Holiday Closures

Dec. 25, 2014 – Christmas Day
Dec. 26, 2014 – Boxing Day
Jan. 1, 2015 – New Year's Day



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We'd like your input



Please send your comments or story ideas to plugged.in@electricalsafety.on.ca.

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