

To Whom It May Concern

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this item.

The following are our comments on **Component A: Level of Public Electrical Safety Awareness**

## **1 . Feedback**

- **on the draft core questions**
- **on the proposed scoring scales and index per question**

### **Question 5 Comments**

What about if the person being surveyed would never do this? E.g. an elderly senior, a person who would not dig big holes? Perhaps a screening question could determine if the person would never do this type of work and should be eliminated from the survey or bypass this question.

In general use plain language to assist in communicating the questions at an appropriate grade level e.g. grade 5. Consider that English is a second language for many Ontario residents, e.g. “start a job outside” instead of “undertaking outdoor activities”

Ask about the “free locate”.

Clarify the size of tree, as a tree includes one that can be held in the palm of your hand.

Clarify that it is a type of deck that requires drilling for the installation of posts. Some decks are installed on cement feet without digging.

**Suggested revision to Question 5.** If **you start a job outside** that required digging – such as

planting a **large** tree or **drilling holes for** a deck – how likely are you to call **for a free** locate of **electrical wires** or other underground lines?

- 1.00pt Definitely
- 0.75pt Very likely
- 0.50pt Somewhat likely
- 0.00pt Somewhat unlikely
- 0.00pt Very unlikely
- 0.00pt Don't know

Ask a follow up question if the last 3 answers are given.

**Question 5. b) What would keep you from getting a free locate of electrical wires?**

e.g. I planned the job at the last minute

I only dig in my garden

I hand dig anyway and that is what the locate tell me to do

### **Question 6**

For both Question 6 & 7, what about if the person being surveyed is a qualified person who can touch an overhead primary with proper equipment. The right answer is different for a qualified person to an authorized person than a member of the public. Perhaps a screening question could determine if a qualified person should be eliminated from the survey, as that is not who we are trying to learn about. Perhaps Question 11 could be a screening question.

Don't split the main question in two (English as a second language).

Be more specific with the object you are talking about touching the power line with (**object that can carry electricity**).

People know and see us touching the wires with insulated tools, specify it is "**for you**".

**Suggested revision to Question 6.** How dangerous do you believe it is **for you** to touch **an overhead power line** with your body, or any **object that can carry electricity**?

We agree with the EDA's comment to change the answer options to question #6 to:

- 1.00pt Very dangerous
- 0.00pt Not very dangerous
- 0.00pt Don't know

Reason, it would be misleading to a customer to have an LDC in any way (including a survey) even hint that it may not be very dangerous.

### **Question 7**

There is an significant issue here.

What type of **overhead power line** are you talking about, a secondary overhead service to the home, or a primary line with the 3 distances required for workers to stay clear of a primary power line?

This is asking about both and so there is no right answer.

Most of the examples you are giving are far more likely to be near secondary wires.

The only requirement for worker’s tools at secondary voltage in the Construction Regulations is, Regulation **187**. Tools, ladders, scaffolding and other equipment or materials capable of conducting electricity **shall not** be stored or **used so close to energized electrical equipment, installations or conductors that they can make electrical contact**.

Eliminate “climbing” as it moves into recreation and not a job.

Remove the “do you believe”. There is no right answer if this is an opinion.

Add clarification on what you are actually asking.

**Suggested revision to Question 7.** When **starting** an outdoor **job** – such as, standing on an ladder, cleaning windows or eaves troughs, or trimming trees – how **close** can you **or any object that can carry electricity** safely come to a **high voltage** overhead power line?

Answers to Question 7. This answer is based on requirements for workers to stay away from high voltage powerlines.

**Construction Regulation 188. Says**

(1) This section applies unless the conditions set out in clauses 189 (a) and (b) are satisfied. O. Reg. 627/05, s. 7.

(2) No object shall be brought closer to an energized overhead electrical conductor with a nominal phase-to-phase voltage rating set out in Column 1 of the Table to this subsection than the distance specified opposite to it in Column 2.

TABLE

Column 1	Column 2
Nominal phase-to-phase voltage rating	Minimum distance
750 or more volts, but no more than 150,000 volts	3 metres
more than 150,000 volts, but no more than 250,000 volts	4.5 metres
more than 250,000 volts	6 metres

So the right answer is “from 3 metres to 6 metres away”, or “more than 3 metres to more than 6 metres away” but not “to less than 6 metres”.

What does “i.e.” say to a person who is hearing it and has English as a second language.

Change the answers to

Would you say ... 0.00pt You can safely touch an overhead power line

0.00pt Less than 1 metre away (which is less than 3 feet away) **(if you don’t change the question this is a perfectly correct answer.)**

0.00pt 1 metre to 3 metres away (which is 3 feet to 10 feet away) **(if you don’t**

**change the question this is a perfectly correct answer.)**

1.00pt From 3 metres to 6 metres away (which is 10 feet to 20 feet away) - **This is a perfectly correct answer with the most detail.**

1.00 pt Greater than 6 metres or more away (which is 20 feet or more) - **This is a perfectly correct answer.**

0.00pt Don't know

### Question 8

Agree with the EDA comments.

### Question 9

The same significant issue is here as in Question 7.

What type of **overhead power line** are you talking about, a secondary overhead service to the home, or a primary line?

This is asking about both and so there is no right answer.

Remove the comment "do you believe", as there is no wrong answer to a question of this type.

Remove the term "downed" as this is not a term used in common language.

10 meters (33 feet) is the distance from any voltage of power line that has come down to the ground (downed wire) up to 230kV.

So this is the answer we teach but not actually correct as the distance is based on the voltage.

For most wires running in cities, this is not required but recommended because you do not know the voltage.

Add clarification on what you are actually asking.

**Suggested revision to Question 9.** How closely **can** you safely come to an overhead power line **of an unknown high voltage, if it came down to the ground because of a storm or accident?**

Answers to Question 9.

What does "i.e." say to a person who is hearing it and has English as a second language.

Remove the term "downed" as this is not a term used in common language.

Change the answers to

Would you say... 0.00pt You can safely touch it.

0.00pt Less than 1 metre (which is less than 3 feet)

0.00pt 1 to less than 5 metres (which is 3 feet to less than 16 feet)

0.00pt 5 metres to less than 10 metres ( which is 16 feet to less than 33 feet)

1.00pt At least 10 metres (which is at least 33 feet, or the length of a full sized

school bus) – **this is the correct answer if you change the question to include detail of unknown high voltage.**

0.00pt Don't know

### Question 10

This is asking for an opinion again, and so there is no correct answer.

Add clarification on what you are actually asking.

**Suggested revision to Question 10.** If you were in a vehicle – such as a car, bus or truck - and an overhead power line came down on top of it, which of the following options would you do?

0.00pt Get out quickly and seek help

1.00pt Drive out from under the power line if possible - **This is a perfectly correct answer and the first thing you should try.**

1.00pt Stay in the vehicle until directed it is safe to leave by emergency or utility workers - **This is a perfectly correct answer.**

1.00pt Call 911 from a cell phone in the vehicle - **This is a perfectly correct answer and what you should do as this is an emergency.**

0.00pt Don't know

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### 1 . Feedback

- on the proposed methodology

This is noted to be “opinion research” in the Methodology guide.

Surveying for opinion in this matter of public safety should look like “Do you think your LDC does a good job of ... ?”

Measuring the public’s knowledge of public safety questions is not an opinion.

Be cautious that the 2 are not being blended.

### 2. Did you find this consultative material more effective?

It was odd to refer to page 20 from page 3 and to page 3 from page 20.

### 3. Do you have any other comments?

The overall premise that surveying the public with “opinion research questions” in an LDC’s area to determine the effectiveness of a part of an LDC’s Safety System is significantly flawed.

There is a quote often used, that says “what gets measured gets done”.

But what action is being measured with this survey?

With the wrong questions the measurement's value is limited.

However, as noted in the consultation paper "most LDCs currently proactively develop and deliver public safety awareness programs in their community."

We are no exception at Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc.

We have a strong commitment to these programs, and sharing our programs with others is a common long standing practice in our industry.

Screening Question 1. & 2. Why are we not interested in the electrical awareness of those under 18?  
We provide electrical safety education to those aged 10 to 11 in schools.

Question 11, should be a screening question as mentioned above.

Question 12, should be modified if Question 11 becomes a screening question.

At the end of the survey LDC should be allowed to ask if they would like to receive information on the items covered in this so educational material could be sent to them if interested.

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