



For Immediate Release

September 23, 2011

Ontario Leaders Honoured for Advancing Electrical Safety

Electrical Safety Authority Celebrates the 2011 *Ontario Electrical Safety Awards* Recipients

MISSISSAUGA, ON – The 2011 *Ontario Electrical Safety Awards* were awarded last night recognizing outstanding contributions in advancing electrical safety and building a safety culture in Ontario. This year's winners are:

- Consumer and Home Electrical Safety – Mike Holmes
- Powerline Safety – Cambridge North Dumfries Hydro, Guelph Hydro, Kitchener Hydro and Waterloo North Hydro
- Product Safety – Whirlpool Corporation
- Worker Safety - Entertainment Electrical Safety Committee of Ontario (EESCO)

The awards were established by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) to acknowledge the significant contributions made by many people and organizations to reduce electrical fatalities, injuries and loss. Ontario's Deputy Minister of Consumer Services, George Ross and Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion joined John Wiersma, Chair of the Board, and David Collie, President and CEO, Electrical Safety Authority in handing out the awards.

"We are on a mission to eliminate electrical fatalities and serious injuries in Ontario and these people and organizations exemplify the leadership and effort needed to achieve that goal," said Peter Marcucci, Chief Public Safety Officer, Electrical Safety Authority. "We're very pleased to have an awards program that formally acknowledges the contributions of so many others working towards the same goal."

The 2011 winners are:

- **Consumer and Home Electrical Safety – Mike Holmes** for outstanding contribution to advancing public electrical safety through his uncompromising work ethic to Make it Right[®], which considers home safety a top priority. His dedication to teaching people about the dangers of cutting corners when it comes to home repairs, renovations and maintenance has raised public awareness of safety risks. In doing so, he has helped support the Electrical Safety Authority in achieving our vision of an Ontario free of electrical fatalities, serious injury, damage or loss. His dedication to safety is further supported through the Holmes Foundation he has established to ensure training in skilled building trades translates into increased safety for consumers and workers.
- **Powerline Safety – Cambridge North Dumfries Hydro, Guelph Hydro, Kitchener Hydro and Waterloo North Hydro** for joining forces to improve safety awareness by educating workers and the public of the hazards associated with electrical equipment and systems. Their efforts target those who are most at risk by providing electrical safety knowledge in schools and by using children's safety villages, sharing electrical safety and powerline safety information with first responders and construction trades, and reinforcing safety practices of local electrical contractors.

- **Product Safety – Whirlpool Corporation** for their industry-recognized efforts to benchmark product safety. Their commitment to safety starts with their leadership team, and is reflected in business and manufacturing processes that reinforce electrical product safety at the highest possible standards. An active participant in industry advocacy groups, Whirlpool routinely invites safety regulators and stakeholders to participate in their safety design system. This system starts with product design and continues with ongoing monitoring of their products. A formal risk assessment process includes systematic safety auditing and the routine use of forced failure testing techniques and analysis to identify potential hazards. A state-of-the-art field monitoring and investigation system is in place to ensure early identification and response to potential hazards.
- **Worker Safety - Entertainment Electrical Safety Committee of Ontario (EESCO)** for responding to electrical safety concerns associated with the unique needs of the entertainment industry in Ontario. EESCO spearheaded the definition and promotion of standards and guidelines to address grounding requirements for portable generator sets used in the film and event sector. Recognizing the importance of consistent application of electrical installations, EESCO worked with the Ministry of Training and Colleges to establish training and certification requirements for Entertainment Industry Power Technicians. This has allowed EESCO to advance the standards associated with safe electrical installations and connections to protect workers and the public.

About the Electrical Safety Authority

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is responsible for public electrical safety in Ontario and administers the electrical safety code, provincial electrical contractor licensing, electrical distribution safety, and product safety. Its vision is an Ontario free of electrical fatalities and serious injury, damage or loss. To achieve that goal ESA is focussed on five critical areas that present the greatest electrical safety risks and harms to the public:

- Powerline safety
- High-risk electrical worker safety
- Electrical product safety
- Aging infrastructure
- New wiring installations and electrical code

For more information, go to www.esasafe.com.

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