

Re: Fire Safety

Background:

Emergency responders often request that electrical service be disconnected during firefighting activities. When this happens, the utility cannot re-energize the service without a connection authorization from ESA. As a Licenced Electrical Contractor (LEC), you may be called to assess damage to the electrical system and make any required repairs to allow power to be restored for residents or for restoration personnel. Below is what to look for, and the steps to take:

When the service is damaged:

Inspect the service inside and outside of the affected building. If there is any damage due to flame, smoke, heat or water, the service must be replaced. All branch circuits should be left out of the panel with only a new GFCI receptacle or two left at the panel for restoration personnel. All repairs require a notification and connection authorization with ESA.

When the service is undamaged, but wiring is affected:

If the service is intact but portions of the wiring system have been exposed to damage, LECs must identify affected branch circuits and disconnect them (grounded and ungrounded conductors at a minimum) from the panel. A GFCI receptacle or two may be left at the panel for restoration personnel.

Before re-energization, LECs must demonstrate to the inspector that all remaining cables are in good working order or have been replaced. This also requires a Notification of Work to be filed with ESA.

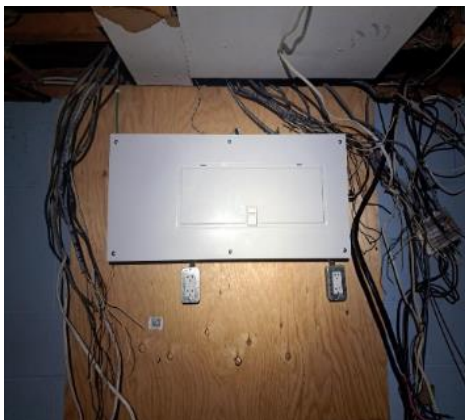
Field example:

In 2015, power to a residential unit in Toronto was shut off. The tenants decided to supply their own power using a portable generator and extension cords. The cords eventually overheated, sparking a fire. This incident could have been avoided if proper restoration procedures had been followed.

Resources & training:

The steps for power restoration after a fire are similar to those outlined at: [ESAsafe.com/safety/storm-safety/restoring-power/](https://www.esasafe.com/safety/storm-safety/restoring-power/)). When filing for an ESA permit, indicate the work is related to fire damage.

Panel Replacement After Fire



Garage Fire Involving Portable Generator (2015 Field Example)

