

Utility-related Equipment



Utility-related equipment includes electrical equipment and devices used by Local Distribution Companies (LDCs), privately owned companies, or property owners that distribute electricity to customers' facilities or buildings. Examples of such equipment include:

- **Overhead and underground powerlines** (including most equipment on utility poles)
- **Substations**
- **Electrical chambers** (vaults)
- **High-voltage switchgear**
- **Transformers**

The construction sector contributes to the highest number of overhead powerline contacts each year, particularly with:

- **Haulage** (material/waste)
- **Excavation/directional boring/auguring**
- **Tree trimming/removal/planting**
- **Aerial lifting**

HARM REDUCTION PRIORITY



Powerline contact

Five-year rolling average comparison of worker and non-worker powerline contact related incidents

The powerline safety five-year rolling average has increased **31%** between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020

Between 2011 and 2020:

50%

of electrical fatalities were associated with utility equipment



Overhead powerline contact remains the leading cause of utility-related electrical incidents

8%

Five-year average rate of powerline fatalities between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020 has decreased by 8%.

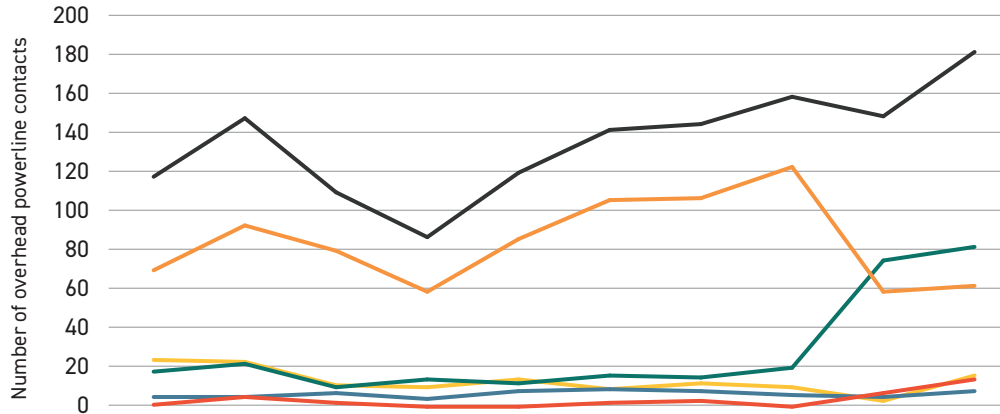


As a subset of the utility sector, between 2016 and 2020, there have been **no reported incidents** involving LDC workers with overhead powerlines.

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NUMBER OF OVERHEAD POWERLINE CONTACTS BY SECTOR IN ONTARIO, 2011-2020



Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Construction	70	93	80	59	86	106	107	123	59	62
Farm	1	5	2	0	0	2	3	0	7	14
Public	18	22	10	14	12	16	15	20	75	82
Transport	5	5	7	4	8	9	8	6	5	8
Utility	24	23	11	10	14	9	12	10	3	16
Total	118	148	110	87	120	142	145	159	149	182
LDC worker as a subset of utility sector	<5	5	0	0	<5	0	0	0	0	<5

Source: ESA records

For more information, please refer to the 2020 Ontario Electrical Safety Report, now available on the [ESA website](#).