

# Fatalities and contacts with electrical distribution equipment



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Fatalities come from  
**electrocution  
and/or burns**



From 2015 to 2024,  
there were **50** electrocution  
fatalities, of which

**48%**

occurred with utility  
infrastructure



**Victims of  
fatalities were  
almost all male,**  
between 20-39 years of age



Information here is derived from the  
Electrical Safety Authority's 2024 Ontario  
Electrical Safety Report. For more information,  
please visit <https://esasafe.com/oedr>

## Electrical distribution incidents



Electrical distribution 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

Electrical distribution equipment include,  
but isn't limited to, overhead and underground  
powerlines, substations, vaults, high-voltage  
switchgear, and transformers



Electrical distribution  
equipment often carries  
**powerful electrical energy.**  
If barriers are breached  
around this equipment, this  
often **leads to fatalities.**

Between 2015 and 2024,  
**88%** of utility-related  
electrocutions  
were due to contact  
with powerlines

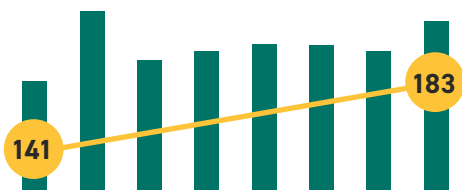


The rate of powerline fatalities have remained the same when comparing 2020-2024 to 2015-2019 time periods



In 2024, the **general public** and the **construction sector** reported the highest number of powerline contacts

## Harm reduction priorities – overhead powerline contact



The **average for overhead powerline contacts** has increased **30%** between 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 (from an average of 141 to 183 incidents of powerline contacts)

## ESA's work on electrical distribution equipment safety

### REACTIVE



Monitor reportable **serious electrical incidents** related to **utility equipment** from LDCs and the public



Investigate **serious electrical incidents**



**Provide education** to industry sectors that have been associated with higher numbers of powerline contact (haulage industry, arborists, transportation)

### PROACTIVE



Use the **Harm Life Cycle** approach to monitor, identify and assess electrical harms and risks in Ontario



Review and participate in redeveloping **regulations and standards**



Provide **electrical safety awareness** to those in trade colleges that offer heavy equipment operator training



Learn more about Electrical-related fatalities and injuries at work at <https://esasafe.com>



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**In accordance with Section 12 of Regulation 22/04, Local Distribution Companies (LDC) or their representatives must report any serious electrical incident to the ESA within 48 hours of becoming aware of the occurrence.**



**Promote safety messages** to our LDCs, contractor community and partners using traditional and digital/social media



Work with our **safety partners**, including advisory councils, to communicate safety trends and identify emerging areas of focus