

# Electrical-related fatalities and injuries at work



Information here is derived from the Electrical Safety Authority's 2023 Ontario Electrical Safety Report. For more information, please visit <https://esasafe.com/oesr>

## Electrical-related fatalities and injuries at work



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



Between 2014 and 2023, there were **50** electrocution fatalities, of which **44%** occurred in the workplace.



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

## Occupational



Electrical incidents are often fatal – those who do survive have **immediate consequences** that often require medical intervention.

There is increasing evidence that **long-term neuropsychological and social consequences** exist among patients after electrical injury, and are similar to those exposed to low- and high-voltage injuries.



Between 2014 and 2023, **electrical tradespeople** (including electrical apprentices) accounted for **23% of all occupational electrical-related fatalities.**

In the last five years, electrical fatalities at work occurred most commonly in industrial settings. A **significant portion of those fatalities** occurred when doing **repair/maintenance type of activities and landscaping work.**

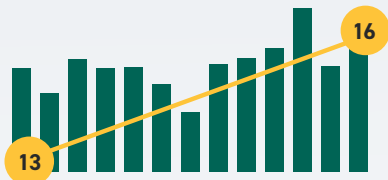


The **construction and services sectors** contribute to the highest number of WSIB lost-time electrical injury claims.

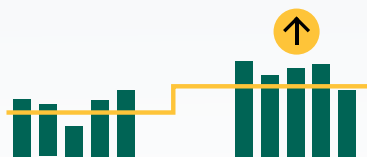
## Harm Reduction Priorities



### Worker Safety



The overall worker safety five-year rolling average has **increased** from 2014-2018 (13 critical injuries and fatalities per year) to 2019-2023 (16 critical injuries and fatalities per year).



The electrical trade worker safety five-year rolling average has **increased** when comparing 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.

## ESA's work on worker safety

### REACTIVE

**Attend and review** electrical workplace incidents when they are reported to ESA; to work with safety partners when necessary



### PROACTIVE



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



Conduct **risk-based** inspections that follow the Ontario Electrical Safety Code



Continue ESA's **Don't Work on Energized Equipment** campaigns



Review and participate in redeveloping **codes and standards**



Provide **electrical safety awareness** to those in trade colleges and apprenticeships



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**Target powerline safety campaigns** to specific construction sectors (haulage, arborists)



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



Integrate **electrical safety education** into ESA's available training courses, such as the pre-Master's course and other safety and technical training courses



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