Electrical-related fatalities and injuries at work

Fatalities come from electrocution and/or burns.

Between 2012 and 2021, there were 53 electrocution fatalities, of which 55% occurred in the workplace.

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

Information here is derived from the Electrical Safety Authority’s 2021 Ontario Electrical Safety Report. For more information, please visit https://esasafe.com/oesr

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 2012 and 2021, electrical tradespeople (including electrical apprentices) accounted for 28% of all occupational electrical-related fatalities.

In the last five years, electrical fatalities at work occurred most commonly in industrial, public places, commercial and farm settings. A significant portion of those fatalities occurred when doing repair/maintenance work.

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

Worker Safety

The worker safety five-year rolling average has remained the same between 2012-2016 and 2017-2021 (3.8 average number of fatalities and critical injuries)

ESA's work on worker safety

**REACTIVE**

- Attend and review electrical workplace incidents when they are reported to ESA, 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

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.

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

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