

Fatalities and contacts with electrical distribution equipment



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

Fatalities and contacts with electrical distribution equipment



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



From 2014 to 2023,
there were **50** electrocution
fatalities, of which

50%

occurred with utility
infrastructure



**Victims of
fatalities were
almost all male,**

between 20-39 years of age

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 2014 and 2023,
84% of utility-related
electrocutions
were due to contact with
powerlines

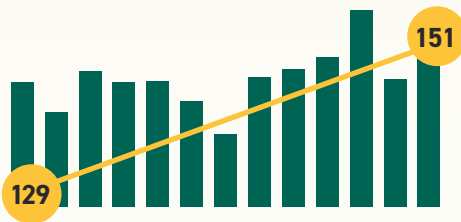


When comparing 2019-2023 to 2014-2018 time periods, the rate of powerline fatalities has increased by **55%**



In 2023, 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 **17%** between 2014-2018 and 2019-2023 (from an average of 129 to 151 incidents of powerline contact)

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>



@homeandsafety



facebook.com/
ElectricalSafetyAuthority



linkedin.com/company/
electrical-safety-authority



youtube.com/ElectricalSafetyESA



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