

Hazards in electrical rooms put people and property at risk

Live electrical panels left open - cause danger

Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) inspection has identified that many Commercial and Industrial establishments leave live panels open. Energized panels should never be open except for during diagnostic testing, such as infrared imaging. It shall be noted that many people and trades, other than electricians, may enter “electrical” rooms to install/maintain data, phone, security, fire alarm and other systems.

Please note:

Rule 2-202 of the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) requires bare live parts to be guarded against accidental contact by means of approved cabinets or enclosures, where located in a suitable room, vault or similar enclosed area, that is accessible only to qualified persons.

Permanent panel covers or barriers shall be installed on energized panels at all times except when electrical maintenance work is being performed.

Poor “housekeeping” creates serious risks to people and property

Materials, supplies and trash left in electrical rooms often blocks access, causes accidents, and poses fire hazards.

Allowing any objects to be left near electrical panels violates the OESC:

- **Rule 2-308** states “a minimum working space of 1 m with secure footing shall be provided and maintained about electrical equipment that . . . requires examination, adjustment, operation or maintenance.”
- **Rule 2-314** further requires “working space around electrical equipment shall not be used for storage and shall be kept clear of obstruction.”

Safety is everyone’s concern and everyone’s responsibility.

These hazards should be identified and fixed.