

Powerline Safety Week



Backgrounder

Electrical Safety Authority launches annual Powerline Safety Week campaign

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is a not-for-profit corporation with a mandate from the Ontario government to improve public electrical safety.

As Ontario's regulator and foremost authority on electrical safety, ESA administers Part VIII of the Electricity Act and oversees four related regulations. We are focused on assessing and preparing for today's most pressing risks while anticipating what tomorrow will bring. Our goal is to build an Ontario where people can live, work and play safe from electrical harm.

Our mandate has four key components:

1. We anticipate, identify and target the leading causes of electrical-related harm.
2. We verify compliance with Part VIII of the Electricity Act and its associated regulations.
3. We promote awareness, education and training. Our aim is to make the public aware of potential electrical harm.
4. We work with Licensed Electrical Contractors, utilities, manufacturers, safety partners and other stakeholders to improve electrical safety in Ontario.

ESA's 2020-2025 strategic plan, 'Safely Powering Tomorrow,' continues our journey towards being a modern, risk-based electrical safety regulator for Ontarians. As a modern regulator, ESA is implementing a risk-based approach to its work and will continue to adapt as industry, the economy and demographics evolve – and as emergent crises such as COVID-19 dramatically change the nature of work.

About Powerline Safety Week

As part of its commitment to fostering an Ontario safe from electrical harm, ESA partners with local distribution companies (LDCs) across the province to raise awareness about the risks posed by powerlines.

According to survey data collected on behalf of ESA, concern about electrical safety has been on the rise in recent years. In 2019, 54% of Ontarians stated they were concerned about electrical safety – up from 43% in 2016. Powerline Safety Week seeks to respond to these and other concerns by providing the information people need to keep themselves, their families, and their co-workers safe.

Now in its eighth year, Powerline Safety Week emphasizes the safety behaviours people should practice when in close proximity to powerlines, including staying three (3) metres back at all times and ten (10) metres back from downed powerlines.

ESA's 2020 Powerline Safety Week includes life-saving tips at esasafe.com/safety, educational social media content, and partnerships with LDCs to spread the word.

Additional Resources

- ['Safely Powering Tomorrow,'](#) ESA's 2020-2025 strategic plan
- [Powerline Safety at Home](#), a tip sheet for residential customers
- [Powerline Safety Tips for Construction Workers](#), a tip sheet for staying safe on the jobsite
- [Powerline Safety for Landscapers and Arborists](#), a tip sheet for staying safe while conducting outdoor improvement projects

