

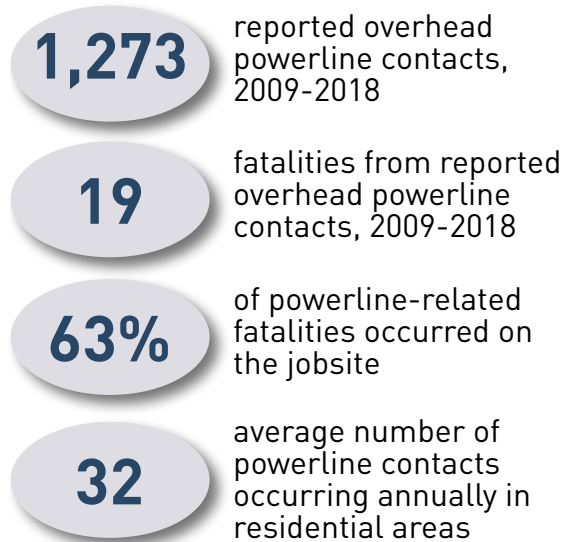
# Powerline Safety Fact Sheet



## Powerline Safety Myth-Busters

1. **You do not have to come into contact with a powerline to receive a lethal shock.** Electricity can jump or 'arc' from a powerline to nearby people and objects.
2. **You can still receive a shock even if you're wearing safety gear.** Safety boots rated for electrical work may not provide 100% protection from shock. Normal wear and tear or contamination such as dirt or oil can compromise their ability to protect you.
3. **Even wood can conduct electricity.** No matter what ladders or other long tools are made of, they still represent hazards if used in close proximity to powerlines.
4. **Fallen powerlines could still have electricity flowing through them.** Always assume a downed powerline still has electricity flowing through it, even if it isn't sparking. Stay 10 metres back.
5. **If a powerline falls on your vehicle, stay inside!** The car and the ground around it may be electrified and you could be killed if you get out of the vehicle. Stay inside until utility workers tell you it's safe to get out.

## Powerline Safety – By the Numbers



## Overhead Powerline Contacts – Numbers by Region

- The number of reported powerline contacts in Toronto has increased steadily over the past 10 years.
- The number of reported powerline contacts in Ottawa and Barrie have held relatively steady over the past 10 years.
- Sudbury had zero reported powerline contacts in the past six years.

	Total contacts (between 2009 and 2018)
Toronto	111
Mississauga	48
Brampton	2
Kitchener	5
London	18
Kingston	14
Ottawa	51
Sudbury	10
Barrie	15

## Fast Facts

- Over the past ten years, the city with the highest number of reported overhead powerline contacts is Hamilton (145), followed by Toronto (111), Ottawa (51), Mississauga (48), and St. Catharines (45).
- Powerline-related fatalities occur most commonly in August, followed by May and July.
- ESA has received reports that overhead contacts in residential areas occur more frequently in June, July and October.
- Construction, repair and maintenance, excavation and installation are the types of work most associated with occupational powerline fatalities.
- Tree pruning, landscaping and accidental recreational contact are the types of incidents most associated with residential or non-occupational powerline fatalities.