

## Grounding Close to a Pole

### Distribution Company Awareness

This bulletin provides information for installing grounding electrodes, such as ground rods, adjacent to poles. Good utility practice and OESC Specification 34 indicates a minimum of 50cm separation of the grounding electrode to the pole, and a minimum depth of 30cm.

Reasons for adequate separation from a pole includes the following:

- Wicking action around the pole can draw moisture away from soil surrounding the pole and may increase local soil resistivity
- Pole movement can reduce surface pressure and soil contact
- Pole hole backfill material may have higher resistivity than surrounding native soil. Placing the ground electrode in high resistance backfill material will increase resistivity.



### ESA Recommends

Electrical Distributors should follow their standards, specifications and maintenance practices to ensure adequate grounding is achieved.