

Powerline Safety Alert

Worker Dies while replacing building siding Siding/Roofing/Eaves Trough Installers are reminded to stay clear of Overhead Powerlines when working on buildings

On July 28, 2009 a 25 year old siding worker in southern Ontario died after receiving a fatal shock when his extension ladder contacted a powerline energized at 4800 volts. He was repositioning his ladder along the side of a house while installing new soffits and fascia. A coroner's inquest is planned and the Ministry of Labour is investigating.

The danger from electric shock is high for workers working on the exterior of buildings near overhead powerlines. From 2001 to 2009 there have been 6 fatalities, 35 injuries, and 50 near misses associated with powerlines in Ontario.

The Occupational Health & Safety Act (Construction Projects – Electrical Hazards) stipulates the distances from powerlines that workers must maintain when in the vicinity of powerlines. If powerlines are too close to the work area, arrangements can be made for the powerlines to be temporarily de-energized.

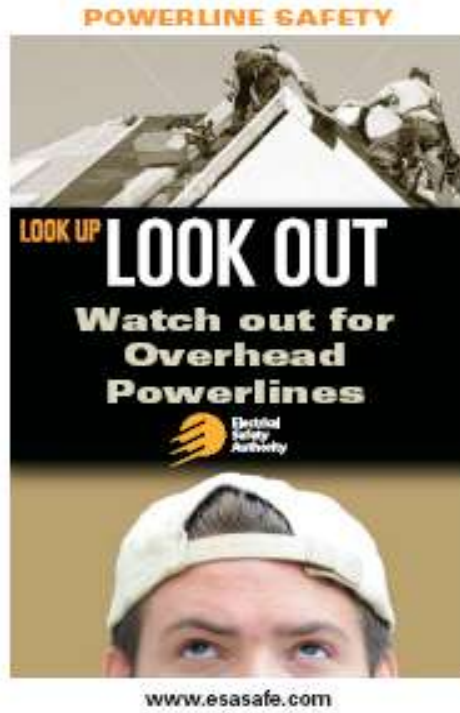
The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) identified **roofing/eaves trough/siding work as being high-risk based on fatalities, incidents and previous coroners' inquests**. Because of this ESA initiated a powerline safety campaign for Siding, Roofing and Eaves trough businesses and installers in 2008.

The Siding, Roofing and Eaves trough businesses and installers reported a 70% recall associated with this campaign, and 40% indicated they specifically remembered messaging on ladder safety and overhead powerlines, and 34% indicated they applied the safety stickers provided to remind them to look up for overhead powerlines.

The following materials were distributed to over 4,000 businesses involved in roofing, siding and eavestrough installations. Materials are provided free of charge, and are intended to support businesses and workers in remembering to always check for overhead powerlines, and to always take precautions when working around overhead powerlines. If you are interested in any of the following safety materials for workers please contact us at utility.regulations@electricalsafety.on.ca.

Additional worker safety messaging can be found on our website at www.esasafe.com under worker powerline safety. ESA is interested in continuing to work with all industries to sustain heightened awareness of the danger associated with contacting overhead powerlines.

A two-sided safety information piece



A vehicle sticker – UV protected for rear windows/ bumper encouraging workers to “look up–look out” for overhead powerlines



Scaffold or ladder “look up-look out” sticker warning of overhead powerline



Jenifer Robertson
 General Manager, Utility Regulations
 Electrical Safety Authority

Powerline Safety Alert

Farmers are Reminded watch out for Overhead Powerlines

On July 28, 2009 a 25 year old siding worker in southern Ontario died after receiving a fatal shock when his extension ladder contacted a powerline energized at 4800 volts. He was repositioning his ladder along the side of a farm house while installing new soffits and fascia. A coroner's inquest is planned and the Ministry of Labour is investigating.

Over the years ESA has targeted the following high-risk segments with powerline safety awareness campaigns.

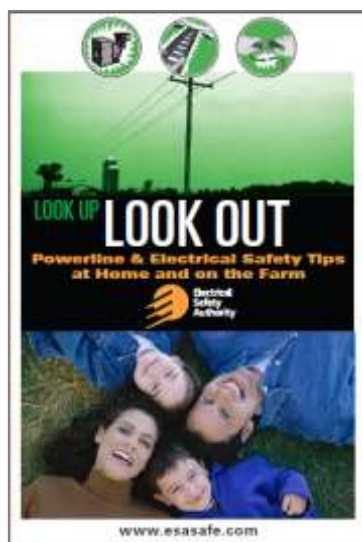
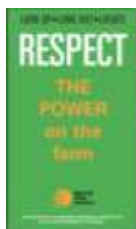
2005 to 2009	Ontario Public – focusing on high risk points of contacts, including; ladders, extension poles, trucks, forklifts, etc.
2006 to 2008	Farmers – rural - specifically crop farmers
2007 to 2009	Dump Truck Businesses and Operators
2008 to 2009	Siding, Roofing and Eavestrough Businesses and Installers
2009	Landscape/Arborist Businesses and Trades

Crop farmers in southwestern Ontario reported a 31% recall of this campaign, and 43% indicated they are considering powerline safety more as a result of the awareness campaign.

The following materials were distributed to farmers across Ontario to remind them to check for overhead powerlines. Materials were provided free of charge to farmers and workers in remembering to always check for overhead powerlines, and to always take precautions when working around overhead powerlines.

Additional powerline safety information can be found on our website at www.esasafe.com under worker or public powerline safety and by contacting ESA at utility.regulations@electricalsafety.on.ca.

A two-sided safety information piece



A vehicle sticker – UV protected two sided window sticker

