

## Do Orange Cover-ups on Powerlines Protect ?

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) has recently stated that their survey indicates that more than 67% of construction workers in Ontario either do not know or believe that orange cover-ups on powerlines will protect them from shock. ESA states this is a deadly misconception as you, your tools and equipment should always remain a minimum of 3 metres away from overhead powerlines. Orange cover-ups are only to be used for identification purposes only.

Since 2019, Ontario has seen a staggering 310% increase in powerline contacts by the general public, according to the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA). With 19 fatalities and 1,393 overhead powerline contacts occurring between 2012 and 2021, the ESA's mission to educate and protect Ontarians is more important than ever. Powerline Safety week, May 17 to May 23, which emphasized the safety behaviours people should practice when in close proximity to powerlines, is part of ESA's commitment to raise awareness about the risks posed by powerlines and by providing the information people need to keep themselves, their families, and their co-workers safe.

ESA has created a free online powerline safety module which can be accessed by clicking here [Powerline Safety on Construction Sites](#). It goes through three scenarios that construction workers may experience while on the job and provides helpful pointers that can keep them and their colleagues safe:

### 6 Powerline Safety Tips:

1. Look up, look out! Identify all powerlines on site and keep people and equipment at least three metres away to prevent an incident. Electricity can jump to you or your equipment if you're too close to a powerline.
2. Before you begin any excavation work, contact your local utility or call Ontario One Call. Ask for a cable locate for all utility-owned underground infrastructure. Privately-owned underground powerlines need a private locate.
3. You must have a signaller to support drivers of dump trucks and other high-reach vehicles. This makes sure equipment doesn't come within three metres of overhead powerlines.
4. Ensure that dump trucks on site lower the box after dropping off a load. It's good practice to have a "raised box" indicator installed in the truck to remind the driver when the box is raised.
5. Stay alert! Incidents often happen at the end of the day, when workers are tired or rushing to finish a job.
6. If wires fall on the truck or the ground, always assume they are still energized. Stay in the vehicle, call 911 and keep everyone back. Only the local utility worker on-site can confirm when the power is off and tell you when it's safe to exit the vehicle.

### Additional Resources

- [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
- [Articulating Boom Equipment Safety Booklet](#)
- [Dump Truck Powerline Safety Best Practices](#)

## ESA Can Now Issue Administrative Monetary Penalties

In an effort to reduce illegal and unsafe electrical installations across Ontario, the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) will be able to impose administrative penalties, up to \$10,000 per penalty, beginning April 1st 2023. An administrative penalty is a financial penalty which will enhance ESA's existing tools to motivate compliance. [Click Here to read article.](#)

**Examples of contraventions** where the ESA can issue an administrative penalty include but are not limited to: conducting electrical work without a licence, advertising electrical services without a licence, working without filing a notification (permit) with ESA, and hiring or sub-contracting an unlicensed contractor.



## Maintaining Electrical Equipment on Your Property

If you have an overhead powerline on your property, you may own the assets. You are legally responsible to maintain the electrical equipment on your property – such as poles and overhead wires – in a safe manner and in compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code.

This includes safely maintaining tree growth and plant material around overhead powerlines to avoid potential electrical hazards. If you're not sure how to determine ownership of the powerlines and related equipment, contact your Local Distribution Company for more information.

Rule 75-712 of the Code requires owners of privately owned powerlines to prune and maintain all trees and woody growth so that a minimum clearance of four metres is around the powerlines.

For a copy of this hand out [Click Here](#).

More Resources Available

- [Tree Planting Guidelines](#)
- [Vegetation Management Around Powerlines](#)
- [Homeowner Landscaping & Tree Trimming Safety](#)

## Regulation 61 amending Reg 213 comes into Effect on July 1

Have you assured that you are or will be in compliance? The changes to regulation affect section 21(4) and section 29..

- You must ensure that personal protective clothing and equipment that is provided, worn or used aer a prop- er fit, having regard to all relevant factors including body types
- Toilet facility are now up to new standards, meet new minimum numbers and are provided as well as means to clean hands and have alcohol based hand sanitizer present.

## Working at Height Training Standard Update

The review has formally concluded and a number of enhancements to the standards will keep them modern and effective. The standards will now require:

- an enhanced ladder section
- increased participant awareness of the hazards associated with skylights
- more participant engagement and interactive learning
- demonstration and use of more types of personal protective equipment and damaged equipment
- accommodation of different body types
- inclusion of anti-racist practices in the learning environment

These enhancements will help keep Ontario workers safe when they work at heights on construction projects.

The updates are informed by consultation with ministry stakeholders, health and safety data, ministry experience, best practices, coroner's inquest recommendations and administrative experiences.

To avoid disruptions to the working at heights training system, approved training providers have until April 1, 2024, to update their training programs and prepare their instructors to meet the revised standards. The ministry will begin accepting updated training programs for approval on August 1, 2023.

**PRIVATELY-OWNED POWERLINE ASSETS**  
**Know Your Responsibilities**

**Maintaining the Electrical Equipment on Your Property**

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**Electrical Hazards Near Powerlines**

- DIRECT CONTACT**  
Contact with overhead powerlines can happen when using tools such as ladders, pole top pruners and other pruning equipment to prune or remove trees. Branches and limbs caught in the powerlines may become conductive.
- INDIRECT CONTACT**  
During tree pruning and maintenance activity, branches, people and equipment in close proximity to the overhead powerlines can conduct electricity. You don't even need to touch a powerline to receive a potentially deadly shock. Electricity can arc (jump) to you and your tools if you get too close.
- DOWNED POWERLINES**  
Energized powerlines can be pulled down by broken branches and limbs. Anyone standing near the downed powerlines is at risk. Always stay at least 10 metres/33 feet from a downed wire.

**Getting too close to a powerline can have lethal consequences.**

**4 Metre Clearance**

**Understanding Code Requirements**

Rule 75-712 of the Code requires owners of privately-owned powerlines to prune and maintain all trees and woody growth so that a minimum clearance of four metres is around the powerlines.

**Follow these steps to safely prune trees near powerlines:**

- It is strongly recommended that tree-pruning maintenance be completed by a Utility Arborist who has been trained to prune trees around powerlines.
- If you plan to hire someone other than a Utility Arborist to prune or remove trees near the powerlines, it is strongly recommended to make arrangements with the Local Distribution Company to have the powerlines safely disconnected at the source prior to starting work and while the work is being performed.

**Planting New Trees - Plan Ahead**

- Avoid planting trees under or around powerlines and electrical equipment. Plan ahead by determining the tree's height and width at maturity based on the Plant Hardiness Index and Plant Hardiness Geographical Map. For more details see the "Tree Pruning Guidelines" in the Resources section at [www.essafe.com/treepruning](http://www.essafe.com/treepruning).

**DOES NOT MEET CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS**



## Court Bulletins



### [May 19 - Critical Injury - Canadian Waste Management Inc., Fined \\$500,000](#)

A worker was injured after reaching into the hopper of a waste collection truck. The worker and a supervisor had inspected the truck and noticed the safety plate that normally covered the moving parts in the hopper area of the truck was missing. The supervisor told the worker to keep their hands away from the area but permitted them to use the truck without the safety plate in place. With the machinery still running, the worker used a plastic snow brush, taken from the garbage, to move a fallen bag closer. The worker then reached into the truck to grab the bag. The worker's jacket got caught in the machinery and the worker was critically injured.

The company failed, as an employer, to ensure the truck was equipped with, and guarded by, a guard or other device to prevent access to its moving parts.

### [May 16 - Working @ Heights Fatality - James Curran Expert Removal & Excavating Limited Fined \\$70,000](#)

A worker died after falling from the upper level of a building that was being demolished. The worker was in the process of removing an old hopper, working off a ladder placed beside the hopper on the platform. While making a cut, one half of the hopper dropped suddenly and fell to the platform, causing the worker to fall off the ladder, over the edge of the platform, to the ground below. The worker, who was not protected by any method of fall protection, suffered fatal injuries.

The employer failed to ensure the worker was adequately protected by a method of fall protection when exposed to a fall of more than 3 metres, as required by S 26.1(2) of Reg. 213 and S 25(1)(c) of the OHSA.

### [May 9 - Fatality - Bacic Forming Concrete Ltd., Fined \\$115,000](#)

A worker sustained fatal injuries during the demolition of foundation walls at a construction project for a new single-storey residential dwelling. The subcontractor directed an excavator operator employed by the home builder to knock down cut sections of wall using the excavator. At no time did the employer designate a signaler, or a person with a clear view of the area near the wall, to communicate hazards to the excavator operator, whose visibility was reduced by physical obstructions and the glare of the sun. Unbeknownst to the operator, one of the workers was still in the excavation and sustained fatal injuries from the collapsing wall.

Bacic Forming Concrete Ltd. failed to take precautions to prevent injury to a person on or near a project that may result from the demolition of a building or structure, as prescribed by S 214(2) of Reg 213:

### [May 8 - Fatality - Fritz Construction Services Inc., Fined \\$110,000](#)

On the day of the incident, a worker was assisting in the plant, operating a trolley system used to transport slabs of precast concrete through the building to outside the facility. The worker was last seen between two trolley carts that moved on a cable and rail system operated by a hand-held remote control. The worker was later found unconscious between concrete slabs being transported by the two carts. The investigation also found no safeguards in place to protect workers from this hazard. A major contributing factor was the installation of a wire rope clamp on the wagon puller cable which was inconsistent with the manufacturer's design.

The Company failed as an employer to ensure that the provisions of S 45 (a) of Reg 851 were complied with contrary to S 25 (1) (c) of the OHSA

### [May 3 - Working @ Heights Fatality—General Motors of Canada Company Fined \\$325,000](#)

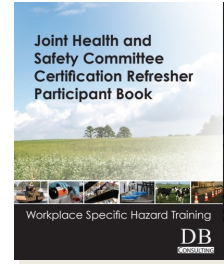
A worker died after falling 2.86 metres from the top of a machine they were working on.

The employer failed to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances, including ensuring the worker used an adequate means of fall protection, contrary to S 25(2)(h) of the OHSA.

## Joint Health and Safety Training (In Class and Distance Learning)

Safetyscope can help with:

- In Class sessions for JHSC Part 1, Part 2 and Refresher Training
- Distance Learning (Virtual) Training utilizing DBC Inc. MLITSD approved Joint Health and Safety Refresher training courses.



### Safetyscope is an approved provider

We have continued to expand our scope and now Safetyscope is an approved provider for the following:

- Toronto Water for Working at Heights
- Safetyscope is a TSSA Approved Training Provider
- Safetyscope is an approved provider for Corrections Canada



### Online Training with InFuse

Safetyscope has partnered with InFuse Compliance Systems to offer a full turn-key Health & Safety solution that includes a robust suite of Online Training. For more information [Click Here](#)



### Safetyscope's Public Training Sessions

With our COVID-19 procedures in place, Safetyscope is now holding regular public training sessions in Working at Heights, Working at Heights Refresher and Confined Space Awareness.

### Safetyscope staff are 100 percent vaccinated.

If your organization requires any additional courses, please contact us with your training needs at [training@safetyscope.net](mailto:training@safetyscope.net).

### Safetyscope Continuing to Maintaining Registration as an OWWCO Training Provider

These courses meet the criteria in subsection 29(4) of O.Reg. 128, Certification of Drinking Water System Operators and Water Quality Analysts. On Completion of training all participants will receive a certificate of completion with corresponding CEU Value.

1. Working at Heights	.7 CEU
2. WHMIS 2015	.4 CEU
3. TDG	.4 CEU
4. Working in Confined Spaces Rescue Level	2.8 CEU
5. Confined Spaces Attendant Non Entry	1.3 CEU
6. Confined Spaces Advanced Entrant	.7 CEU
7. Confined Spaces Attendant Refresher	.7 CEU
8. Confined Spaces Rescue Refresher	.7 CEU
9. Standard First Aid	1.4 CEU
10. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	.4 CEU
11. Spill Response	.7 CEU
12. Trenching Hazards	.4 CEU



### MLITSD Blitz

Asbestos in building structures (hygiene)

Phase 1: Compliance assistance April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Phase 2: Inspection blitz January 4, 2023 to March 31, 2023

# SAFETYSCOPE



2023 SCHEDULE

## 1 Day Entrant & 2 Day Attendant Course

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

January	16 - 17
February	13 - 14
March	20 - 21
April	17 - 18
May	15 - 16
June	19 - 20
July	17 - 18
August	14 - 15
September	11 - 12
October	16 - 17
November	13 - 14
December	11 - 12



## Competent Supervisor 1 Day Course

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

February 28
April 27
June 29
August 31
October 26



## Day 1 - Emergency Level/Recertification Day 2 - Standard First Aid Level C

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

February	6 - 7
May	8 - 9
August	8 - 9
November	6 - 7



## Working At Heights 1 Day Course

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

January	13 & 27
February	10 & 24
March	10 & 24
April	14 & 28
May	12 & 26
June	9 & 23
July	7 & 21
August	4 & 18
September	1, 15 & 29
October	13 & 27
November	10 & 24
December	8



## Working At Heights Refresher 1/2 Day Course

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

January	6 & 20
February	3 & 17
March	3 & 31
April	21
May	5 & 19
June	2, 16 & 30
July	14 & 28
August	11 & 25
September	8 & 22
October	6 & 20
November	3 & 17
December	1 & 15



## JHSC Part 1 Certification Dwight Barratt Inc. - 3 Day Course

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

March	27 - 29
August	28 - 30
November	27 - 29



Part 2 and Refresher also available

## Confined Space Rescue 4 Day Course

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

May 29 - June 1
December 18 - 21



Course held at the SafetyScope Training Centre  
2501 Rutherford Road Unit 22 Vaughan, Ontario L4K 2N6  
Phone: 416.231.3752 E-mail: info@safetyscope.net

2022 Calendar Year