

Vegetation Management Obligations

Distribution Company Awareness

O.Reg. 22/04 requires Electrical Distributors to manage vegetation around all Electrical Distributor owned overhead conductors including primary and secondary distribution lines (both secondary bus and services) up to the ownership demarcation point. ESA is concerned with distribution line contacts caused by unauthorized persons such as private property owners and non-utility arborists pruning or removing trees near energized distribution lines who may not be aware of the required clearances and safe limits of approach.

Regulation 22/04 Excerpt

Interpretation

1. In this Regulation,

“distribution line” means an electricity distribution line, transformers, plant or equipment used for conveying electricity at voltages of 50,000 volts or less;

“secondary distribution line” means an electricity distribution line conveying electricity at 750 volts or less phase to phase

Safety Standards

4(4) *“All overhead distribution lines, including secondary distribution lines, shall meet the following safety standards:*

4(4)3. *Energized conductors and live parts shall be barriered such that vegetation, equipment or unauthorized persons do not come in contact with them or draw arcs under reasonably foreseeable circumstances.”*

ESA Recommends

- Electrical Distributors should review and if needed modify their Conditions of Service, vegetation management practices and other measures as necessary to avoid unauthorized people from contacting overhead lines. Recognizing the requirements of O. Reg. 22/04, vegetation management in proximity to distributor-owned lines, on both public right of way and private property, is ultimately the Distributor’s responsibility.
- Distribution lines should be de-energized before pruning around overhead lines for unauthorized persons.
- If Electrical Distributors contract vegetation management work around their distribution lines, they should hire Utility Arborists that are 444B Certified and authorized to prune, clear vegetation, fell or remove trees within the Electrical Utility Safety Rules defined ‘Safe Limits of Approach’.