

### **DISTRIBUTION COMPANY AWARENESS:**

ESA is providing this bulletin to the Local Distribution Companies as a courtesy in the event that municipalities in their service territory contact them to discuss street light maintenance issues.

In June 2009 ESA issued a letter to all municipalities in Ontario. The purpose of the letter is to remind Ontario municipalities that it is their responsibility under the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) to maintain their street lighting assets (e.g. poles, hand wells) and inspect for any potential hazards (presence of voltage) that may result in a member of the public being shocked or otherwise injured.

The letter outlines a number of incidents that have occurred over the past two years involving members of the public being shocked due to electrical faults caused by deteriorating and faulty wiring in the streetlight equipment and provides the common factors in these occurrences that contributed to the incidents. To view a copy of the letter please go to [www.esasafe.com](http://www.esasafe.com) and click on municipal street lighting assets.

ESA is recommending that given the number of reported incidents, all municipalities examine their street lighting assets to ensure they are safe. If a potential electrical hazard is identified, the municipality has a responsibility to set out a remedial plan of action to address the hazards identified. Any repairs undertaken to installations are required to be made in accordance with the OESC and are required to be inspected by ESA.

To assist municipalities in preventing any potential electrical hazards from street light assets, ESA is also organizing a symposium on August 20, 2009 on street lighting issues. The intent of the symposium is to provide further information to street light asset owners and to provide a forum for asset owners to ask questions and learn from the experiences of other municipalities.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

If you can provide additional information on this Bulletin or any other Utility issue, please contact ESA to share your experiences. Additional information requests, and follow-up information, may be directed to ESA. Please be prepared to quote Bulletin "DIB-04/09".