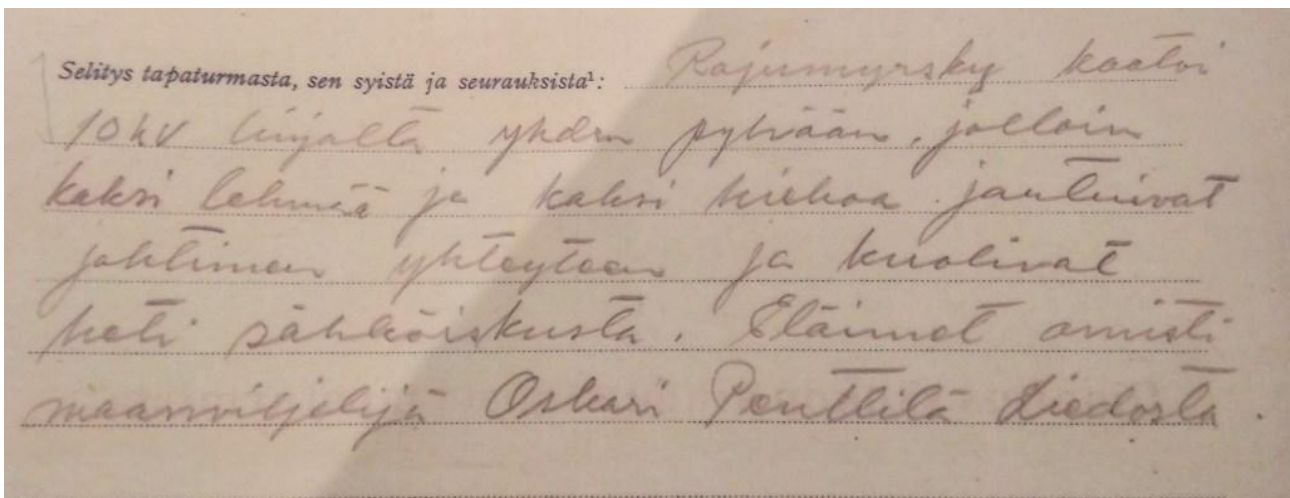


Safety first with electricity

The Aila storm and the power outages it caused are still fresh in people's minds from this week. Even before the storm arrived, citizens were reminded that, for example, they should not attempt to remove trees that have fallen onto power lines themselves.

Accidents caused by severe storms have, of course, occurred in the past as well. Below is an extract from an electrical safety report made after an accident that occurred in Lieto in September 1937. Two cows and two heifers were killed because of a power line that had fallen to the ground. This incident can be explored in more detail in the permanent exhibition of the Electrical Museum.



Even in the 1930 s, authorities had to be notified of accidents caused by electricity.

The first regulations concerning electrical safety were issued in Finland in 1902. According to this legislation, electricity companies were required to arrange "special supervision".

Electrical safety was managed for a long time by various organisations, but today it is supervised by the Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency, TUKES. It was established in 1995 under the name Safety Technology Authority when the Technical Inspection Centre and the Electrical Inspection Centre were merged. Consumer safety matters were brought under TUKES in 2010, and chemical safety matters the following year.

Occupational accidents caused by electricity were unfortunately common, especially in the early twentieth century. The dangers of electricity were not yet fully understood. Below is a tragic news report from August 1923, when a twenty-year-old man from Pertteli died from injuries caused by an electric shock.