

30 MAY 2019

Safety alert

Responding to Electrical Incidents



When responding to electrical incidents please clear the area, don't interact with any items and prevent further access.

What happened?

Following an electric shock incident, a staff member proceeded to erect signage, to prevent further use of the item. In doing so they inadvertently exposed themselves to a further electrical risk.

To remove this electrical risk from further incidents, please do not interact with an incident scene unless absolutely necessary. Lock-out the area or room so that it can no longer be accessed, and ensure that staff in the area are informed, particularly HSRs and managers.

Notify Infrastructure and Property Group ([5227 2408](tel:52272408)/www.deakin.edu.au/work-request) of the incident, and do not enter the space until it has been made safe by a qualified electrician. Please note when an incident occurs outside of business hours, security should be notified first [1800 062 579](tel:1800062579)

Risk

The risk associated with this event is medium-high. How an individual will react to an electric shock, no matter how low the voltage, cannot be predicted. An electric shock can result in a range of outcomes from discomfort and muscular pain to burns or death. People with a pace maker are particularly susceptible to electric shocks.

Immediate actions required

- When an electrical shock occurs or an electrical hazard is apparent, make the individual and area safe where possible, and prevent access to the area for other staff, students and visitors.
- Inform your manager, HSR and IPG of the incident immediately, and submit an incident report for Health Wellbeing and Safety www.deakin.edu.au/incident.
- If the incident occurs out of business hours, security should be notified
- The area should not be reoccupied until a qualified electrician has attended and deemed the area safe.

Further Electrical Advice

- Ensure all your electrical appliances have been tested and tagged, at least every 5 years for fixed items, and annually at a minimum for all others.
- Before purchasing electrical items, make sure that they meet Australian Standards.
- Plugs on all 10 amp and 15 amp items should be insulated on the live (or top) pins, the black coating shown here.



Further information

Contact the Deakin University Health, Wellbeing & Safety team for more details: hrd_ohs@deakin.edu.au