

Safety Alert March 2020

Electrical shock from disconnecting equipment

A worker has sustained an electric shock whilst disconnecting equipment.

Background

Whilst decommissioning a microscope from a lab, and attempting to remove the power adaptor plug, the plug snapped off (Photo 1) resulting in part of the plug remaining in the power board (Photo 2). The worker went to see what was in the power board when their hand came near and possibly in contact with the piece in the power board. The worker immediately felt tingling up the left arm and muscle tenderness lasting for the remainder of the day.

Cause of Incident

Contact with a damaged plug remaining live in a power board. Power had not been turned off prior to dismantling the microscope system.

The adaptor plug on the microscope power lead was poorly constructed and snapped during removal from the power outlet, leaving the live pins exposed in the power board.



Photo 1: Power Adaptor Plug

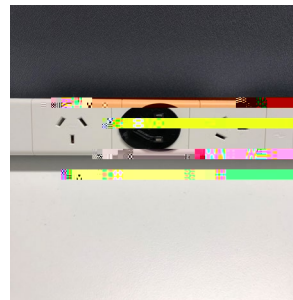


Photo 2: Pins remaining in the power board

What was done well

The piece of equipment had a current test tag in place

A contracted Electrician was engaged immediately to remove the broken adaptor from the outlet (where pos

Keep well clear of any potential

Be aware of the definitions of a

[HS307](#)

[Hazard and Reporting Procedure](#) and escalate to your respective WHS Business Partner/Coordinator as soon as you are aware of the incident.

Ensure medical treatment is sought following any report of an electric shock.

Ensure damaged/faulty electrical equipment is isolated from use until inspected/repaired by a qualified Electrician.

Further Information: Contact your Faculty HSE Business Partner or Coordinator http://safety.unsw.edu.au/contacts	Corresponding author for this alert: c.jaconelli@unsw.edu.au
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