

Recall of Under Desk Heating Mats

Faulty Electrical Cable

This Safety Alert highlights the risk of not performing regular inspections, testing and tagging on electrical equipment.

BACKGROUND

A contractor was installing network cables within an office space, when he leaned against a heating mat cable still plugged into an electrical board (see pictures below). The contractor leaned against the cable with his head and sustained an electric shock to his temple.

Photo 1: Faulty cable

Photo 2: Heating Mat

The electric shock was caused by a combination of the following factors:

The switch along the cable comes apart very easily, exposing electrical wires, which appeared to have occurred in this instance.

Faulty electrical cables (i.e. attached to the mat).

The testing and tagging was out of date.

WHAT WAS DONE WELL

Heat mats were recalled from the area and disposed of immediately.

Contractor management was performed well by IT. Safe Work Procedures, Inductions and Insurance were all completed.

IT was immediately available to deal with the situation and the contractor was provided treatment at Prince of Wales hospital.

ACTION FOR LOCAL AREAS TO TAKE

Level 3 Health and Safety Committees, in cooperation with local staff, are requested to Send out this Safety Alert and recall any under desk heating mats within their areas. Review all electrical testing and tagging in their areas and if it's due, please organise to have testing and tagging conducted.

Further information:

Contact your Faculty Health and Safety Coordinator
www.safety.unsw.edu.au

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