

# SAFETY ALERT



## Electricity Hazards On Campus

### Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Workers (staff, students, contractors and visitors)

### Incident Details

In a recent incident a worker plugged an electric cable into a damaged general power outlet (GPO/socket) and received an electric shock. Our worker was not injured and continued about their duties.

### Investigation Results

- The room had been set up as a temporary clinical laboratory while renovations were occurring, so was not the worker's familiar workspace
- The worker was a casual worker on limited hours with limited supervision of their work
- Ductwork that usually held the cabling for the GPO had been removed by an unknown person
- The damage to the ductwork and/or GPO was not reported by users of the room
- The worker did not identify the hazard associated with touching the damaged GPO
- Workers were unaware of the requirement for an electrocardiogram to be completed following all electric shocks

### Key Messages

- All incidents are to be reported in CHARM within 24 hours
- Damaged electrical infrastructure should be immediately isolated from use and reported to the Service Coordination Centre on extension 2020 immediately it is identified
- Only appropriately licensed electrical workers are authorised to complete works on Curtin Infrastructure, and where necessary under approved permits
- Where electrical works are to be completed as part of teaching or research activities, appropriate risk assessments/scope of works are to be completed and approved prior to works commencement
- Any worker who receives an electric shock, no matter how "minor" is required to have an ECG as soon as possible

### Who do you call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health and Safety on 9266 4900 or email [healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au](mailto:healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au).

### Date of Issue

20/04/2022