

Safety Alert

Number: 21-02

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Subject: Exposed Electrical Cable

What Happened / Narrative

This lesson learned / safety alert has been produced to highlight a failure on a members Offshore Support Vessel. The vessel's E.T.O. was engaged in routine maintenance within a bridge storage locker and discovered an exposed electrical cable. The cable was from a Fluorescent tube light which had been fitted in the locker, this cable was left uninsulated, which presented a potential for electrical shock and/or a fire hazard.

Wires are covered in casings that resist electricity, and when these casings fail, the exposed wire can cause damage to electronic devices. At best, devices will not get as much power as they should. The Device may perform more slowly, and if a screen is involved, it might appear dimmer. At worst, damaged wiring may generate a power surge that can damage a device.

A tangled cobweb of cables, alongside a bare or damaged wire constitutes a danger. Not only is there a severe fire risk, but death from live electric wires is not uncommon.

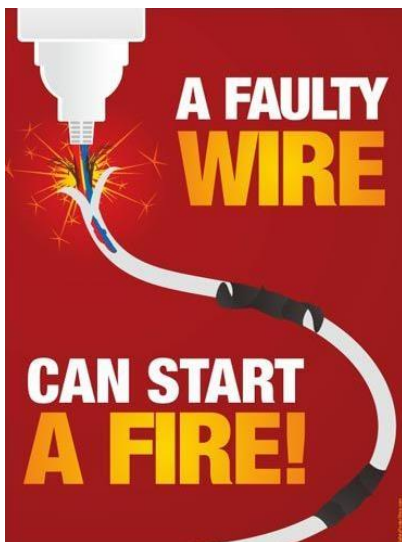
Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

All Chief Engineering Officer's / E.T.O's should ensure that compartments, which are frequently opened, used for storage, have heavy human traffic, (such as on/off switches for equipment), or which have breakers within, that are often removed or switched off for isolation purposes, are checked for the condition of the cables. Outside electrical cabinets, which are more prone to wear, and tear should be checked on a regular basis.

The Following checks should be carried out as actions to prevent this sort of incident from happening:

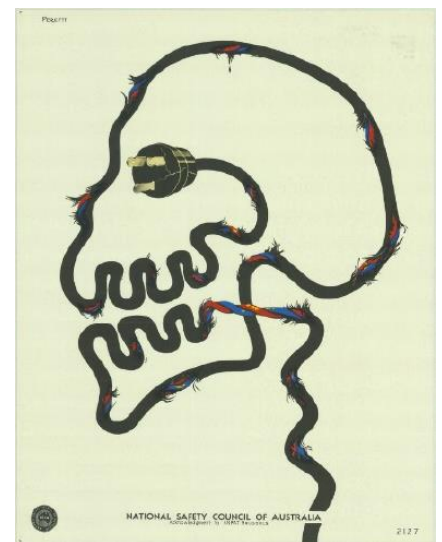
1. Check all areas where wires meet other moving objects (i.e. Under bridge consoles)
2. Check all areas where wires connections are frequently adjusted (i.e. DP systems which are disconnected for trials etc.)
3. Where there is heavy human traffic (i.e. Consoles with on / off switches, consoles where breakers are frequently being checked, changed out, or removed for isolation reasons)
4. Areas which have had work recently done on them, adjustments, retrofits, etc.
5. Outside electrical compartments, which may be more susceptible to damage, wear, and tear.

Photographs / Supporting Information



The COSWP Chapter 5 Fire Precautions 5.3.1 states "All electrical appliances should be firmly secured and served by permanent connections whenever possible. All electric wiring should be well maintained and kept clean and dry".

How safe is your vessel?



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