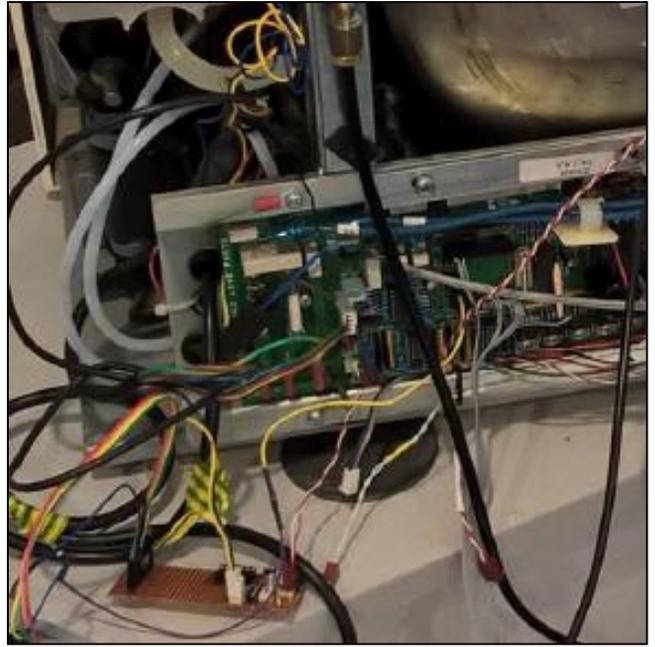


Safety Alert

Dangerous Electrical Wiring

10 March 2017



Description

An example of dangerous wiring was discovered in one of our labs in relation to work that was being done on an autoclave and this was recorded as a dangerous occurrence. In these situations the procedure is that the safety coordinator investigates who is responsible and why this has happened. Under Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). A report is compiled and is submitted at the next School Executive Group (SEG) meeting for review. A copy of the report goes to the Safety and Environmental Protection Service (SEPS) and depending on circumstances, there may a further requirement for SEPS to notify HSE. School policy on electrical safety is found on pages 17-18 of School Safety Handbook . Unfortunately this policy has clearly NOT been adhered to on this occasion. Please be aware that if this kind of safety breach were to result in serious injury or worse, then matters would escalate very quickly and this can lead to institutional and possibly personal prosecution.

Actions Taken

- Dangerous equipment quarantined and removed from service to prevent risk of electric shock
- Equipment to be properly disposed of in accordance with WEEE Regulations
- Policies on electrical safety and purchasing of equipment reviewed with the people involved

Learning Points

- The electrical safety policy is a vital document and all staff and students should be familiar with the content
- Second-hand or refurbished equipment should not be purchased unless supplied with a safety certificate
- Electrical repairs and modifications should only be carried out by competent people and only when the equipment has been fully isolated from the electrical supply