



Don't Expose Yourself to Energized Wiring

Energized wire can be incredibly hazardous, as it may lead to electrocutions or fire if left unprotected. WISHA and the fire codes require that live parts be guarded against accidental contact.

The most common type of exposed wiring is open junction boxes as seen in Figures 1 and 2. When junction boxes are left uncovered, the wiring is vulnerable to damage. Staff or students can easily bump into or touch the energized wires and receive an electrical shock. In addition, if combustibles such as paper are stored near energized wiring, a spark or electric current could easily start a fire.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Other exposed wiring hazards include electrical outlets and switches that have either missing or broken covers (Figs 3 & 4). This hazard creates a risk of electrocution for any person plugging in an appliance or turning on a light switch. Figure 4 especially demonstrates this hazard, as a person could easily be electrocuted while reaching around the corner to turn on the switch.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Electrical hazards can also be found in light fixtures. Light fixtures, especially fluorescent light fixtures, have energized wiring beneath their covers. Therefore, a cover must always be installed following installation or maintenance in order to prevent electrocution or fire. Additionally, when a light bulb is broken or burns out and the socket is left open, the electrical parts inside the socket remain energized. For this reason, a defective bulb should always be left in a socket until the bulb is replaced.

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