

Date: Tue, 19 Dec 2000 10:44:43 -0700
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Subject: Yellow Alert: Worker Shocked when Reaching inside Timer Box

Title: Yellow Alert-Office Worker Shocked when Reaching inside Timer Box

Identifier: 2000-KO-SNL-7000-0003 Date: 11/14/00

Lessons Learned Statement: Electrical boxes may not be labeled to indicate that only authorized personnel may open them. When personnel open electrical boxes, the electrical hazard may become exposed and a shock could result if certain parts are touched.

Discussion of Activities: A worker was working late after the office heat was automatically shut off for the night. An electrical box in the hallway contained the timer controls for the office heat. By using a coin as a screwdriver, the box was opened exposing the timer and open terminals of the 208 volts supply voltage. When the worker reached into the box to turn the timer wheel, a shock occurred.

Analysis: The electrical box was considered to be properly guarded because a tool was required to gain entry. There was no warning sign on this box and the worker perceived the box as a wall thermostat that personnel are allowed to adjust. Personnel are aware that they are not to operate circuit breakers inside electrical panels; but the guidance doesn't specifically identify other electrical equipment including boxes. Workers are required to know the hazards in their work places; but this hazard was not adequately recognized.

Recommended Actions: Danger sign added to timer box - "DANGER - ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT Authorized Personnel Only". The internal SNL ES&H Manual will be changed to include all electrical boxes and hazard recognition.

Priority Descriptor: Yellow Alert

Work Function: Other

Hazard: Electrical

ISM Category: Analyze Hazards, Develop/Implement Controls

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Keywords: electrical shock, electrical hazards