

DAMAGED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Illustrative training scenario - not an actual IPS incident

1 BACKGROUND

Site tools and temporary supplies face water, dust and mechanical damage. Electrical defects can cause fatal injury.

2 SCENARIO

Training example: a worker finds a cut extension lead taped together beside a wet work area but considers using it to finish the task.

3 IMMEDIATE RISK

Electric shock, burns and fire are possible. Do not use or touch damaged parts. Keep others away and arrange safe disconnection.

4 CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS

The damaged lead remained available. Checks had not identified the defect and a makeshift repair was accepted.

5 KEY CONTROLS

Use suitable site equipment, preferably cordless tools or a 110V centre-tapped-to-earth supply. Check equipment and remove damaged items from service. Protect cables; do not make makeshift repairs.

6 SUPERVISOR CHECK

Quarantine the faulty equipment and arrange repair or replacement by a competent person. Maintain an appropriate inspection and test programme. An RCD is additional protection, not permission to use damaged equipment. Electrical work requires competent personnel.

STOP • CHECK • ACT

Take damaged equipment out of use.

Briefing aid: apply the project risk assessment, method statement and manufacturer instructions.

HSE guidance: [construction/safetytopics/systems.htm](https://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/safetytopics/systems.htm)