HAZARD ALERT

Electric shock: Entering ceiling spaces

Risk: Exposed wiring in ceiling spaces

Issue: Several instances of exposed wiring have been detected in ceiling spaces at the university. The first instance was found to be caused by birds or animals entering the roof space and eating the insulation off the wiring. The second was improper termination of redundant control wiring. In both instances, there were minor injuries and Notification to Comcare was required.

Recommendations:

- Ensure work permits are in order before work begins.
- Extreme care is required when entering roof spaces.
- Caution is required when removing ceiling tiles.
- Use a torch to inspect ceiling spaces for hazards before entering.
- Report all damaged wiring and hazards to Facilities and Services and immediate supervisor as soon as practicable.
- Test all wires for electrical current before touching.

Contact: whs@anu.edu.au for additional information

Staff and Students are reminded to report incidents to their supervisor and/or through the HORUS/ISIS online incident notification systems.