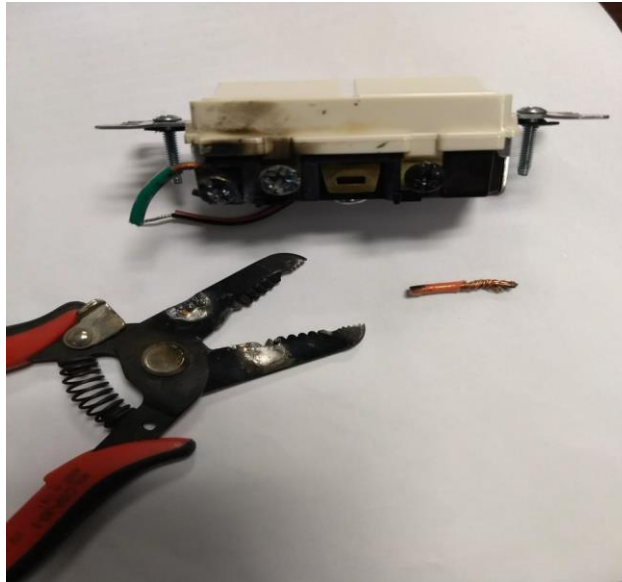




October 2018 –Electrocution Near Miss

What happened? A researcher was attempting to replace the light switch in an office space with the power still enabled to the switch. NEVER perform any building maintenance. Unlike the residential 120 volts power to the light switch, the office switch had 277 volts and the **ability to have electrocuted/killed the researcher.**



What was the cause?

The researcher is not a licensed electrician or familiar with University of Akron buildings.

What went wrong?

- Researcher did not turn in a facilities request to fix the light switch.
- **No attempt was made to contact health and safety.**
- The power was lost to 3 other labs. This could have been dangerous if it included the hoods.

What went right?

- Researcher was unharmed.
- Researcher was using wire cutters with protective handles.
- Power was not lost to the hoods and did not affect the reactions.
- Students who noticed the power outage immediately notified CPSPE Safety Officer.

What corrective action was taken?

- PFOC notified after CPSPE Safety Officer looked into the power outage complaint.
- Immediate Repair of the light switch.
- Investigation and follow up discussion with Researcher.

How can incidents like this be prevented?

- Only use certified electricians to complete electrical work.
- **Utilize the CPSPE facilities requisition for needed repairs on the building.**
https://akron.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3fkZBxPqeX3hRgp
- Understand commercial buildings are different from residential homes.
- Contact CPSPE Safety Officer or University Health and Safety anytime there is an accident or injury.