

# HAZARD ALERT



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE

## Residual Current Device General Power Outlet (RCD GPO) incident

### 1. Summary of the incident

On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023, an audio-visual installer was working within a lectern on an upgrade in a common teaching area.

There were several power outlets inside the lectern with devices connected. One of the power outlet plugs was bumped by an installer resulting in an electrical discharge causing a large flash, smoke and scorch marks on the installers fingertip.

### 2. Contributing factors

The general power outlets involved are old technology and have been replaced over time. They have inbuilt residual current detectors (RCD) to protect against power leakages and surges. This protection is now redundant as all buildings at the university have RCD protection on their electrical distribution boards. These power outlets are not tested and may have been powered up for 20 to 30 years without the localised RCD testing. This increases their chance of failure.



Figure 1



Figure 2

### 3. Recommended actions to mitigate the risk of a recurrence

The university is seeking to replace general power outlets with RDC protection wherever they are found. If you see one of these older style RCD power outlets please raise a Work Request in Unispace to have it replaced ([see here](#)) or call Facilities Support on 8313 4008 to arrange.

For HSW advice send your requests to [hswteam@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:hswteam@adelaide.edu.au)