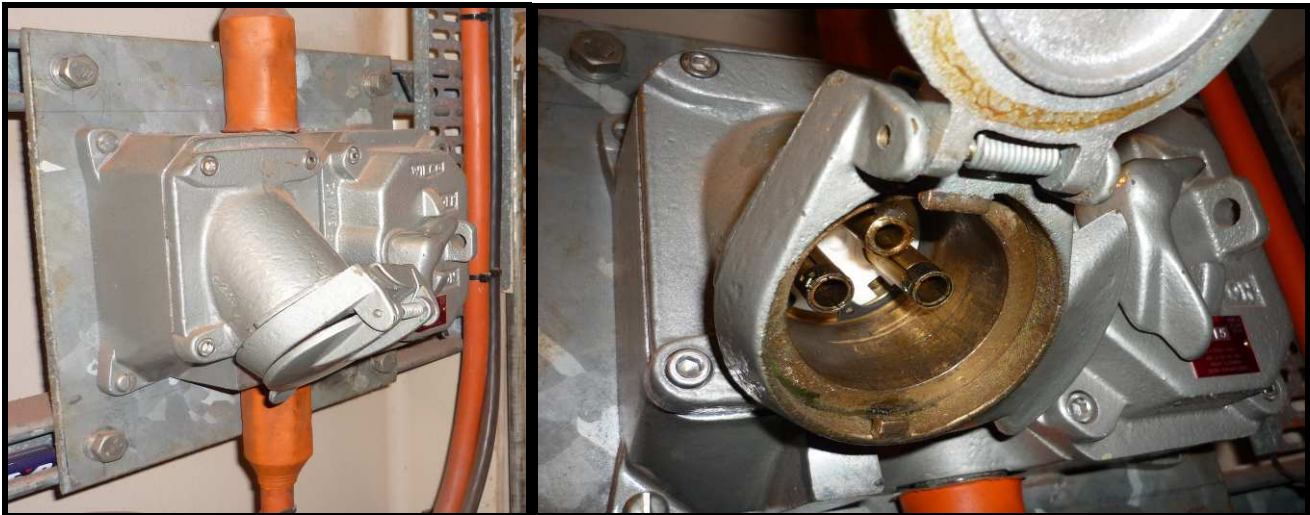


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FAULTY POWER OUTLET RESULTS IN ELECTRIC SHOCK.



Brief description of event:

A field maintenance officer has received an electric shock after making contact with live pins within a power outlet. When the outlet is functioning correctly the outlet should not be able to be switched on without a plug having been first inserted into the socket. For reasons unknown the interlock ring had been rotated 90deg from its normal position. This allowed the switch to be placed into the on position and so energising the pins within. The protective flap was able to be lifted and the FMO's hand came into contact with the live connections within the socket.

Extent of injury/damage:

The FMO received a minor shock. He was taken to the nearest hospital to have a precautionary ECG carried out. This indicated no irregularities with his heart rhythm and the FMO was cleared to return to work.

Contributing Factors:

At some stage the interlock bezel on the socket had been forcibly rotated 90deg from its correct position. This allowed the switch to be placed into the on position without a socket being inserted and locked in. The FMO also did not check that the switch was in the off position before attempting to insert the plug.

Local action taken:

The functionality of the interlock mechanism was checked and was found to be in the wrong position. When rotated back to its correct position the functionality of the outlet was found to be correct. Attempts were made to rotate the interlock ring 90deg out of position to recreate the fault but this was not achievable. Unable to determine how the interlock was rotated 90deg out of position.

ZERO HARM Learning's:

All other sites that have this type of outlet installed need to be checked that the interlock mechanism is in the correct position. The outlet then needs to be checked that the switch cannot be placed in the on position without a plug being locked in. Checks on the circuit have found that it is not protected by an RCD type breaker. The outlet needs to be labelled that it is not protected by an RCD and that a portable RCD power pack be used.

FURTHER INFORMATION -: **Phil Boujos – Field Tech Services Superintendent (0419 929 743)**
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