



## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT** **ADVISORY BULLETIN**

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### **Electrical Safety Advisory:**

Unprotected 347Volt wiring discovered above ceiling in Tower/Thistle area.

### **Incident:**

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 an electrical contractor was working above a drop ceiling in front of the Library Reserves at Brock University Main Campus. While the contractor was removing an existing electrical box he discovered live unprotected 347Volt wiring hanging above the drop ceiling. Facilities Management Electrical Department was informed of the problem and the contractor and Facilities Management were able to correct the unsafe electrical hazards.

### **Facts Related to Incident:**

- All electrical work on campus must be completed by a licensed electrical contractor approved by Facilities Management. (As was the case above)
- All electrical work completed on campus requires an ESA (Electrical Safety Authority) Permit to be filed and a copy of the final inspection report from ESA must be submitted to FM Electrical department.
- All workers and contractors working on campus must follow FMOP 2-1 (Lockout/Tagout Procedures) every time.
- Always assume any electrical equipment and wiring is LIVE. Call FM Electrical Department for assistance in identifying circuits and always test circuits using CSA certified equipment while wearing appropriate Arc Flash clothing and related PPE before commencing any work. (This is required by ESA Code rule#2-034,2-306 and the Occupational Health and Safety Act)

### **Important Points to Consider:**

- Electricity is invisible, silent, dangerous and not obvious to most people.
- Electrical equipment can be found almost anywhere on campus and is not always marked to warn people of danger. Exposed electrical components look deceptively harmless despite the serious danger.
- Warn co-workers about the danger of electrical equipment and report any questionable equipment to Facilities Management immediately.
- Do not block access to electrical panels or equipment (In an emergency an electrician may need immediate access).
- Do not open panels or covers of electrical equipment, regardless how harmless they may appear.