What's the Risk?

Electrical Wiring & Equipment Issues

THE ISSUE

The Canadian Electrical Code states, "All operating electrical equipment shall be kept in a safe and proper working condition." Some common problems found during Insurance Loss Prevention Risk Assessments include damaged and/or defective wiring and unused equipment left in service. These issues increase the risk of personal injury or fire.

WHAT'S THE RISK?

When electrical wiring and equipment is not maintained, the risk of electric shock, arc flash, and electrical fires increase. Property owners are responsible for ensuring their electrical equipment and wiring is operating effectively and safely. Examples of electrical wiring or equipment issues include:

- Rusted electrical cabinets, broken light sockets, aluminum wiring, unsecured electrical boxes or other unsupported equipment
- Missing or damaged dead fronts on electrical panels
- Missing or damaged covers on receptacles or switches
- Wiring that is damaged or missing the outer protective cover
- Wiring that has been damaged by mice or other vermin

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Preventative maintenance is critical to ensure the electrical systems and equipment operate in a manner that is safe, reduces the risk of personal injury, and prevents fires or other property damage. A property owner should do the following:

- Conduct a regular walkthrough of all buildings to look for damaged electrical equipment or wiring.
- Test their electrical equipment (breakers, disconnects, switches, lights) to ensure they are operating as designed.
- Maintain a good relationship with a licensed electrical contractor who will be there to help if needed.

All electrical issues or problems should be dealt with immediately by a licensed contractor as they have the equipment, training, and expertise to do electrical work safely.

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