LBNL EH&S Safety Alert: Workrite Sit-stand Desk

Assistance Requested from Safety Coordinators & Space Coordinators

A recent incident occurred on a sit-stand desk in which a power cord dislodged from the control box and unseated the receptacle exposing “live” terminals. This condition could have caused an electrical shock to a person if handled. We believe this is a “ONE OFF” condition but due to the high safety concerns regarding electrical shocks at LBNL, we need to take every precaution that an injury like this never occurs. EH&S performed an initial sweep, inspecting 150 Workrite sit-stand desks to determine the extent of this condition and found no repeat of the problem. However, we did find that in roughly 5% of cases that the power cord was under stress due to problematic wire management conditions (shown below in photos 1, 2, and 3).

We ask that Safety Coordinators and/or Space Coordinators perform a sweep of all electric sit-stand desks (rectangular and corner) to determine if any of the 3 problem cable management conditions illustrated below are present. If you identify any of these conditions, please provide a list of desk LOCATIONS/OCCUPANTS to Mike White via email at mjwhite2@lbl.gov and he will work with Facilities to fix the condition. Please do NOT attempt to fix the condition yourself. If you discover any exposed electrical parts, immediately unplug the desk, place it out of service and call Ohmar Sowle at 510-486-4520 or email electricalsafety@lbl.gov to report the problem.

1. Ganging and synching the power cord with phone/computer cables
2. Wrapping the power cord around the fixed crossbar at base or hung up on stationary elements, e.g., under table foot or CPU
3. Over-extending the power cord to reach the power source