

Power supply to static concrete boom pumps

An electrical fire was caused recently when a three-phase power cable was plugged into the socket on the control box of a static boom pump.

The socket's directional plug cowling had been secured in place with Tec screws (see picture below), possibly contributing to the fire.

The incident has also raised a number of issues which need to be addressed for the safe operation of static concrete boom pumps;



- The electrical supply cable to a static boom pump must be adequately supported, to eliminate unnecessary strain on the cable and plug/socket. This can be addressed through fitting a lug



Electrical supply cable not adequately supported.

and clamp to the pump (see picture below). This needs to be signed off by an engineer and the supplier of the pump.



- All electrical connections/sockets, the control box and power leads must be tested and carry current tags.
- Maintenance documentation must identify the need to check the electrical socket on the header of the static boom pump, prior to re-energising.
- The power cable must be non-energised prior to its placement in the socket on the header-control box of the static boom pump.
- A fire extinguisher must be located on the header (crow's nest) of the boom pump.
- All workers involved in the operation of a static boom pump must be familiar with the safe work method statement for the particular pump in use.