

Risk associated with suspended lighting fixtures

The Department has suspended lighting fixtures in many of its facilities. These lighting fixtures are used in gymnasiums, assembly halls, agricultural science sheds, ITD rooms and high bay loading areas.

Some suspended lighting fixtures are held up with an open link chain, commonly called “jack chain”. This chain can fail and break under certain conditions:

- Impact from sporting equipment e.g., basketballs or other materials, or machinery.
- Long term use with weight that exceeds the chains design capability.
- Environmental corrosion (proximity to coastline, water damage, humidity or other activities etc.).

Who has the responsibility for managing the risk?

There is a joint responsibility for managing risk and preventing the failure of suspended lighting chains:

- The Department is responsible for maintaining a safe and healthy work environment.
- The principal or their delegate is responsible for identifying, assessing, and controlling hazards in consultation with health and safety representatives and employees.
- Employees must exercise reasonable care for their own and others' health and safety.



Image 1 – Example of suspended lighting fixture

What are schools and other facilities to do?

To ensure the safety of students and staff, it is advisable to:

- Review the school for areas where suspended lighting fixtures are used.
- Safely inspect the suspension chain to determine if it is open chain, this can be done as a visual inspection or by taking a zoom photograph from a mobile phone.
- If the suspension chain appears rusty, bent or unsecure, contact your service provider to undertake rectification of the identified issue/risk.
- If a suspended lighting fixture is impacted by sporting equipment or machinery and becomes unsecured, isolate the immediately area under the lighting fixture until it can be repaired/replaced.

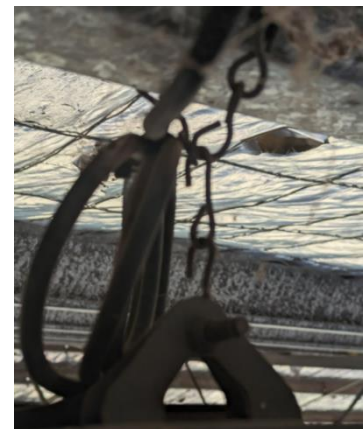


Image 2 - Example of jack chain close to failure

Further Information

For information regarding suspended lighting fittings refer to the manufacturer's instructions of those fittings, or seek advice and funding possibilities from the Department's School Maintenance team at: School.Maintenance@qed.qld.gov.au