

# SAFETY ALERT

February 2016  
Ref 006 16

## Ringway Milton Keynes – Fire to Gritter

**Date:** 29 January 2016

**Time:** 13.30hrs

**Division:** Ringway Milton Keynes

**Location:** Vehicle Workshop, Milton Keynes Depot

An incident has occurred involving a winter maintenance vehicle catching fire within the vehicle workshops at Milton Keynes. The Mercedes Arocs 26t vehicle was in the workshop for inspection works on the Masternaut panic button system. Whilst conducting the inspection within the cab of the vehicle, the Masternaut engineer observed sparks stemming from the side of the vehicle around the point of the vehicles Anderson plug (used for jump starting the vehicle). These sparks quickly developed in to flames. The Masternaut engineer promptly triggered the alarm and extinguished the flames using the workshop's fire extinguisher.

Upon investigation it appears that water had collected in the casing of the Anderson plug from previous washing down activities. This water had caused the terminals to short out creating sufficient heat to melt through the wiring and connection and in turn causing the fire.

The pictures (right) shows the positioning of the Anderson plug and the subsequent damaged caused by the fire.

Subsequently, Mercedes have attended site and disconnected all of the Anderson plugs and the vehicle itself has undergone a full electrical check. All of the Mercedes winter fleet will be going back to Mercedes at the end of the winter season to be refitted with the plug/socket in a more suitable location.

The prompt action taken by the Masternaut engineer also highlights the importance of the depot emergency procedures and the induction process for visitors.



*DP Campbell*

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