

# Fire Plugs

## 1 Overview

The CFA volunteers inspect fire plugs in their brigade area. A database of fire plugs are created, a worksheet of a group plugs are printed, faults are recorded on the sheet. The faults are recorded and a summary of faults are printed to be forwarded to the council to fix the fault. The next time this group of plugs are inspected the existing faults are printed with the street names. All plugs are recorded so that plugs do not get lost. All volunteers can view the details, but only selected users can change the data.

## 2 System Requirements

The software works on Windows 95, 98 and XP, but will not print with Vista. Not yet tested with windows 7.

## 3 Technical Stuff

The program is a free open sourced software. It uses a relational database using dBase+ files written in Visual Objects (v2.7)

## 4 Installing the Program

Run Setup.exe. Suggest install it into my documents (WinXP) with user name "Plugs". Two programs are installed: Plugs.exe and Plugs\_set.exe. Run Plugs\_set.exe to change the brigade name and set up users. Hint: install two copies, one for practice and another for the working copy.

To print You will need to install the ODBC drivers, see ODBC.html for details (Can be done later)

The menu "Settings" changes the brigade name and other settings.

Create new user menu select "User" and create new users. (see "6 Users")

Initial user: aa Password: aa (not a very good password, change!)

## A5 Entering the Plugs

(Ignore any reference to number of plugs and counted, this was in an earlier version and is no longer used.)

Run Plugs.exe and login and then menu select "Plug Information", "View/Enter". Mouse click on the "New" button, which bring up an entry window. Enter the street name and group, the rest of the entry are optional.

Group: A group of streets/roads in a joining location to be inspected. Suggest number the groups 01 to 99 ( two keyboard characters)

Melway/Plug book: (Optional) street reference in map book

Comment: (Optional) any comment to be printed on inspection worksheet. Example Abc Hwy comment: "From Boundary Rd to Smith Rd" (brigade boundary).

"Edit Street" button is used to change the information above.

"Edit Name" button is used to correct spelling error etc.

"Delete" button removes the street from the file, need to "Pack" to recover disk space. Menu select

“Plug Information”, “Pack”.

“**Refresh**” Button updates any changes made.

“**Info**” gives file size.

When the individual plug location are known mouse click on the “**Details/Plug**” button. This bring up new window for entry. Mouse click (select) the street and select “**Edit**”, “**Delete**” or “**View**”.

The “**New**” and “**Edit**” allow you to enter or add new plug details including street numbers and faults.

Entry data are:

House Number: see laterxxxxxx

Caretaker: adopt a plug person details.

Order: see....

Number: 0 no plugs, 1 for single plug, 2 for double plug.

Fault: use the codes on the work sheet

Date: (date fault found) Use the calendar or type it in (6 digits ie 050310)

Fixed button: When the next inspection is done and the fault has been fixed, click this button and the fault is cleared and is transferred to the history.

Reported: when this is clear the fault will be printed on the fault summary for the council to fix the fault. If it is ticked the fault has been reported. *If faults are not fixed on repeated inspection mouse click to remove the tick.*

**A5.1 Order** If the list of plug are not in the natural inspection order, this can be done by number the plug. Suggest number by counting by “fives” so that it can be changed with out renumbering. When this is done menu select “Plug Information”, “Sort”. This is not an automatic operation to keep the program simpler.

**A5.2Pack** recover disk space when plugs (records) are deleted.

## A5.3 Inspection List

(ODBC need to be installed see 4 before printing can be done. ) Menu select “Plug Inspection”, type the group code and click on “Print Inspection List” button and click the print button. The “Record Inspection” button transfer the dates of inspection.

### A5.3.1 To Find Last Group Inspected

Menu select “Plug Information”, “View/Enter” and click on the “by Date” button. Now click on the “End of File” button in the tool bar (Double triangle) **or** menu select “Edit”, Goto Bottom”. The last inspection street/group is displayed. Now click on the “by Group” button and the next group will be displayed.

## A5.4 Report Faults

(ODBC need to be installed see 4 before printing can be done. ) menu select Plug Inspection, Report Faults to print the fault list to the council.

When printed select “Tag Faults as Reported”. This put a tick in the “Reported” box and the faults are not printed again. (See A5)

## 6 Users

The following operations can be done on the users or operators:

**Note upper and lower case is different is different for login initials and password.**

**6.1 View/Edit Users.** Change the users.

**6.1.1 Edit.** Edit the highlighted user.

- **6.1.2 Delete User.** Delete the highlighted user. To remove the user from the user file select: “User”, “Pack”. See 6.4.
- **6.1.3 New Password.** If a user forgets the password use this to set it to a blank. The user can then set it to there own password under the 'Login” menu. (You do not have to be login to change a password as you input your user initials, old password (blank) and the new password twice to check correct typing.)

**6.2 New User.** Creates a new user. The new user is created with a blank password. The user can then set it to there own password under the 'Login” menu.

**6.3 Order/Sort.** Arranges the user list in order. It is sorted on the user name, and not initials or the name printed on the dockets.

**6.4 Pack.** Removes the deleted records from the file. Always do after you delete a user. (More information see C5.2.2.)

**6.5 New & Edit User Window.** The following Information is required or displayed: User Initials for login (3 characters), a user name used to sort the user names in alphabetical order. (Suggest enter as Surname followed by first name). A shortened name for dockets and reports. The level you allow the user is allowed to use the system (see 6.5.1). The “Time Out” is the time in minutes which a user has in idle time before they are auto-logged off . It is taken from the last time a main menu item is selected. The time out time will depend on the physical security of your computer system and the number of different users.

**Hint:** It may be necessary to have two users for the higher users with a multiple user system. Use the lower one for plug entry and the higher one for the manager functions.

Each three programs (Plugs.exe and Plugs\_set.exe will have it own login and time out.

- **6.5.1 User Levels.** This set how much a given user can do. It is listed on the “New/Edit User Window”.

## 7 Deleting Records

To delete a record (ie a plug detail) from your database requires a two (2) step operation to prevent accidental removal form the file. First find or move to a record (plug detail) as indicated above Click on the 'Delete' button and the record is hidden. (Recovering deleted records not yet available)

To permanently remove the record requires “packing”. Menu select 'Pack'. The file are now smaller.

## 8 Vista Problems

The ODBC will not install with Vista. Work around can be:

1. Copy the folder created in 4 to a USB memory. Plug the USB memory into a XP computer and run Plugs.exe from the USB memory. The ODBC need to be installed on the XP computer.

2. If the computers are networked, try sharing the folder and operate it from the XP computer.  
Not tested yet.