

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF HAZARDS?

Hazards can cause injuries and illnesses and very often hazards can combine together and make the problem worse.

HOW DO WE IDENTIFY HAZARDS IN THE WORKPLACE?

It is the feeling that Safety and Health at work should be left to the experts. However, one does not necessarily have to be an expert to identify hazards in the workplace.

The use of your five senses can help you to identify hazards at work.

1. Smell - Burning electrical wires
2. Touch - Overheating motor
3. Taste - Toxic substance
4. Sight - Unguarded machinery
5. Hearing-Excessive noise

HERE IS A CHECKLIST OF POSSIBLE METHODS THAT CAN BE USED TO IDENTIFY WORKPLACE HAZARDS.

1. Observe your workplace to spot the hazards.
2. Receive complaints from workers
3. Examine accident and near miss records
4. Examine sickness figures
5. Ask workers what they think through the use of simple surveys.
6. Conduct inspections
7. Read any reports and information about your workplace.

While the identification of hazards at work may seem complex, this is far from the truth. By using some of these methods you will be able to begin the process of identifying hazards.

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WORKPLACE HAZARDS



Hazards in the Workplace !!!

WHAT IS A HAZARD?

Hazards are unsafe acts of persons unsafe mechanical conditions and/unsafe environmental conditions in the workplace that may impair the health of workers enough to make them lose time from work, or to work at less than full efficiency.

A workplace can contain a number of hazards. Some hazards are obvious while others are not. Hazards that are not obvious are referred to as insidious or hidden hazards.

Examples of **Obvious Hazards** are:-

1. Oil on shop floor.
2. Trailing electrical wires.
3. Blocked passageways
4. Unguarded machinery.
5. Broken rung of ladder.
6. Locked and blocked fire exits.

Insidious Hazards are hard to spot because they do not have immediate effects. They include:-

1. Exposure to high noise level without adequate protection.

2. Exposure to toxic chemicals without adequate protection.
3. Exposure to extremes in temperature.

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF HAZARDS THAT CAN BE FOUND AT WORK?

Hazards at work can be classified as follows:-

1. Chemical Dusts, fumes, gases, vapors, mists.

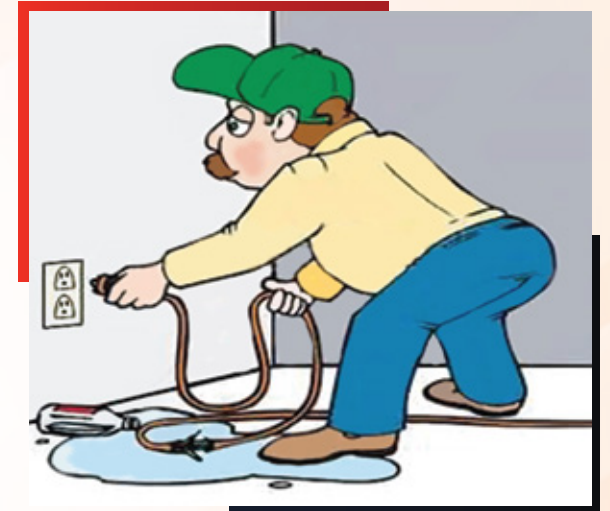


2. Physical Noise, vibration, inadequate lighting and ventilation and extremes in temperature.

3. Biological Infections, infestations due to bacteria, virus, fungi, molds and yeast.

4. Mechanical Unguarded machinery and equipment.

5. Electrical insecurely and incorrectly earthed equipment, using unsound cables and improperly connected plugs.



6. Psychosocial Work overload, work under load

7. Ergonomics Repetitive motion and monotonous work.

8. Others Falling objects, poor house keeping, fall of persons etc.