Recognizing & Controlling Workplace Hazards

National Council for Occupational Safety and Health
What is a job hazard?
Job Hazards

A job hazard is anything at work that can hurt you either physically or mentally.

- Safety hazards cause immediate injury: direct injury or trauma such as a severed finger, puncture wound, a crushed hand, broken bones, eye damage.

- Health hazards can cause illness immediately (acute) or over a longer time (chronic),
Safety hazards

- Unguarded machinery/equipment
- Electrical hazards: damaged plugs, outlets, wires.
- Unbalanced walking surface
- (Pushing, pulling, lifting) bulky/heavy objects
- Tripping hazards
Safety hazards

- Heights
- Falling objects
- Slippery floors
- Holes in ceiling or floor
- Blind spots (vehicles)
- Power tools
Health hazards
Health hazards Chemicals

- Dusts, gases, vapors
  - Acids, solvents, cleaning products, pesticides

Effects:
- Flammable (fire & explosion)
- Burn (eyes, skin, lungs)
- Effect target organs (liver, blood, brain and nervous system, lungs, skin.)
Health hazards

- Biological hazards: living organisms
  - Animals/
  - Insects/
  - blood /
  - Bacteria
  - Viruses
Health hazards - Biological

- HIV
- Flu
- Hepatitis
- Tuberculosis
- Insect/animal {Lyme disease, rabies}
Physical hazards

- Noise
- Radiation
- Repetitive motion
- Heat, Cold stress
Physical hazards

Impacts:
Deafness

Burns, blood disorders, cancer

Musculoskeletal injury

Heat stroke [hypothermia]
Controlling Hazards

Remove the Hazard
(e.g., change the process, use safer chemicals)

Work Policies and Procedures
(e.g., planning, work in teams, mentor)

Personal Protective Equipment
(e.g., hardhat, goggles, gloves, respirator)
Why does it matter?
Why does it matter?

18 year old – Sylvia – Caught Hand in Electric Cabbage Shredder Permanently Disfigured, 4 Operations So Far Will Never Have Full Use of Hand

16 year old – Donna – Working alone in Sandwich Shop after 11pm Seriously injured when assaulted during an armed robbery

17 Year Old – Michael – died of suffocation working at Market for 3 months supervisor told him to go operate the cardboard compactor/baler- While extracting a stuck piece of cardboard, was pulled inside the machine. Hydraulic compressor slowly crushed his chest.
Why does it matter?

- 84,000 <18-year-olds to the ER for work injuries
- 70 <18-year-olds die each year
- 90 18-19 year-olds die each year
- Young workers are injured at a higher rate than adult workers.
- 250,000 <18-year-olds injured/year in the US
Finding Hazards: Key Points

- Every job has health and safety hazards, and they can be controlled.
- You should always be made aware of these hazards. And follow safety rules that protect you and coworkers.
- It is the legal responsibility of the employer to identify workplace hazards and to train you about them and how you are protected from them.
Pause.

Let's apply what we have learned.
Find the Hazards: Food Service
Food Service

- Sharps
- Slips and falls
- Chemicals
- Burns: stove grill (grease)
- Lifting
- Violence
- Heat
Find the Hazards: Office
Office

- Posture (work station)
- Tripping hazards
- Sharps
- Hit by
- Electrical?
- evacuation
OSHA

- OSHA has the authority to make rules and standards on health and safety in the workplace.
- OSHA inspects work sites to determine if there are hazards and violations of its rules and standards.
- OSHA responds to complaints about safety and health.
- OSHA issues citations and fines against employers who fail to meet standards or who violate the law.
- OSHA offers training and technical assistance to employers who ask about hazards and methods of controlling hazards.
Example of an OSHA rule

- Employers must have a chemical safety plan called a Hazard Communication Program. This requires labels on chemical containers with information about a product's hazards.

- Workers should be instructed about chemicals hazards, and how to handle and use and store these safely.
OSHA requires employers to provide a safe workplace.

It's best to get rid of a hazard completely, if possible.

If your employer can't get rid of the hazard, there are usually many ways to protect you from it.
Training: developing a Job Hazard Map

Hazard Mapping Activity
Draw a map (floor plan) of a work site

- Draw layout of work space, any machinery, equipment, workers, etc.
- List safety hazards
- List any health hazards
The National Council for Occupational Safety and Health

www.coshnetwork.org

This material was adapted from materials produced by the Rhode Island Committee on Occupational Safety and Health and the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration USDOL/OSHA.

This material was produced under grant number SH-248783-1-6 0-F-37 from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor. It does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Labor, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.