Assess the Environment for Risks

Environment risk assessment enables the worker to:
- identify risks in the area where the task is performed and along the pathway
- consider ways to eliminate or manage environment risks
- consider ergonomics

Any worker who performs a moving task conducts an environment risk assessment before, during and after performing the move. This risk assessment is an ongoing and continuous process as the environment may change at any point in the moving task.

An environment risk assessment should be conducted when the arrangement of furniture, equipment or other objects is being planned. By making changes to the environment in advance certain risks can be eliminated **before** any moving tasks are attempted.

To conduct an environment risk assessment, the worker considers various risk factors that may impact the safety of the moving task:

Potential for Violence/Aggression
- Client/family/visitors
- Other workers

Room/Area
- Size/layout
- Doorway
- Floor
- Clutter
- Furniture
- Climate

Noise/Distractions
- Technology/entertainment/ events
- Conversation
- Voice tone
- Distractions

Working Surfaces
- Level/stability
- Height/width
- Friction

Colours/Lighting
- Colours
- Lighting
- Shiny surfaces
- Shadows
- Contrasts

TLR Safe Work Practice - Problem-Solving Risk Factors

When identified risks cannot be eliminated or managed, consider ways to problem-solve, such as:
- selecting another safe approach at that time
- seeking assistance to problem solve the risk factors (e.g., medical professional, ergonomist, co-workers, supervisor, TLR trainer/instructor, specialized assessment)
- identifying and scheduling tasks where workers can safely work alone and those where the team approach is safest
- documenting your concerns and forwarding them to your supervisor for resolution if a solution is not readily available (consider additional training you may need)
- forwarding your concerns to the occupational health committee or occupational health and safety representative if the concerns are not resolved at the supervisory level; if in place, the TLR Core Committee could also assist

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Refer to the TLR User Manual, Module 2, for more information on the TLR risk assessment process.

Safety Talk Discussion

Be Accountable: Choose safety - work safe - and go home injury free!