

Health and Safety Hazard Identification

Show the form currently used in your facility/area. Consider discussing the process of reporting a hazard (or concern) in your facility/area as well as the follow-up process.

One of the responsibilities of all workers is to report hazards. A hazard is any activity, situation or substance that can cause harm. Safety hazards should be easily identified but can often be overlooked because of:

- familiarity with the hazard;
- lack of knowledge which may allow the situation to seem non-hazardous; and/or
- resistance to allowing for change.

Health Hazard Identification Checklist: Health hazards cause occupational illnesses.

- Are chemical substances produced, used, handled, stored or shipped? What are they?
- Are any vapours, gasses, dusts, mists or fumes present?
- Are biological substances present?
- Are physical agents present (e.g., noise, electric currents, heat, light, vibration, radiation)?
- Are ergonomic factors present (e.g., lifting, awkward postures, repetitive motions, excessive muscular force, computer use)?
- Could any work processes, tools or equipment cause health hazards (e.g., back injuries, hearing loss, infections)?
- Is harassment present?
- Other health hazards???

Safety Hazard Identification Checklist: Safety hazards cause physical harm.

- Slipping/tripping (e.g., clutter, mats, cords, wet floors, spills)
- Moving parts of machinery, tools and equipment (e.g., wheels, blades, belts)
- Working at height (e.g., bending, reaching)
- Lifting and other manual handling operations (e.g., weight, distance)
- Violence (e.g., from client, another worker, visitors)
- Working alone (e.g., home care, shift workers)
- Fire and explosion (e.g., storage, use)
- Other safety hazards???

If you identify a health or safety hazard (or concern), the first step is to report the concern to your supervisor and discuss ways to control the hazard. If the concern cannot be resolved at this level, the worker can report the concern to any member of the occupational health committee (or the representative). Every worker has the right to contact an occupational health officer at the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety (www.labour.gov.sk.ca).

When a hazard is identified, the occupational health committee, employer, supervisor and workers all work together to assess, eliminate and control the hazard. Everyone is involved to effectively eliminate or control the hazard so that risk of harm is reduced to a safe level.

A job safety analysis (JSA) on each position will help to identify hazards that may be present in each step associated with performing the job position's tasks. For hazards identified, precautionary measures can be put into place to protect workers doing the work.

Safety Talk Discussion

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