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Hazard Control and Assessment

Recognizing workplace hazards and developing a plan to minimize those hazards is crucial to any workplace safety program.

Effective Hazard Control: A hazard assessment is performed by recognizing and assessing the existing and potential hazards of a worksite and assigning those hazards *controls* with the goal of preventing an incident or accident from occurring.

1. Recognize and Understand: You need to be able to recognize the hazard and understand how it will, or can, affect you, co-workers, property, and/or the environment. *Determine what hazards are present at the worksite.*

2. Assess: Measuring the consequences of the hazard enables you to control or mitigate it. This is the *severity* of the hazard. The consequences should be prioritized on a “*worst first*” basis. *Assess the level of risk for the hazards identified.*

3. Control: After you have placed the hazards in the order of “*worst first*”, then you can assign at least one control for every high and medium hazard that was identified. Ideally, each hazard would have a combination of controls in place for protection if eliminating the hazard is not an option. *Implement strategies to eliminate or reduce the risk involved.*

4. Document: All hazard assessments should be documented. Documentation should include all hazards, what controls are put in place for protection, and should be signed off by all workers related to that particular job. *Documentation and communication of the hazard to all others is key.*

5. Follow-up: A hazard assessment should be revisited any time a condition or physical effect changes. For example, if rain develops and poses a new hazard, a new assessment must be conducted to discuss the new potential for harm and/or incident and what control(s) can be put into place. *Monitor and follow-up to ensure the control strategies chosen are implemented and effective.*

The challenge with hazard assessment and prioritization: Individuals perceive hazards differently. One individual may perceive a situation as hazardous with the potential to cause severe damage, while another perceives the same situation as minimally hazardous with lower risk. Hazard recognition and assessment is somewhat personal and is highly dependent on how hazards are perceived. This is why hazard recognition and control should be conducted utilizing a group of individuals all working together to allow for conversation about opinions regarding the severity and probability of hazards, taking into account various experiences, skills, knowledge, and the like.

Factors that influence hazard and risk perception include:

- 1. Personal Factors:** Experiences (positive or negative); knowledge and skill level; age; gender; physical ability and stature
- 2. Organizational Factors:** Safety management systems; training protocols and systems; leadership behaviors; peer behaviors
- 3. Situational Factors:** Stress; frustration, rushing; control; mind-set or frame of mind; complacency

Good Practices to Prevent Workplace Hazards: Prior to starting work, take a few moments to evaluate the work area and work activity for potential hazards and discuss their controls, maintain good housekeeping standards, inspect tools and equipment prior to use, maintain personal protective equipment as per the manufacturer's specifications, follow established procedures, do not take any shortcuts and report hazards and incidents as soon as possible.

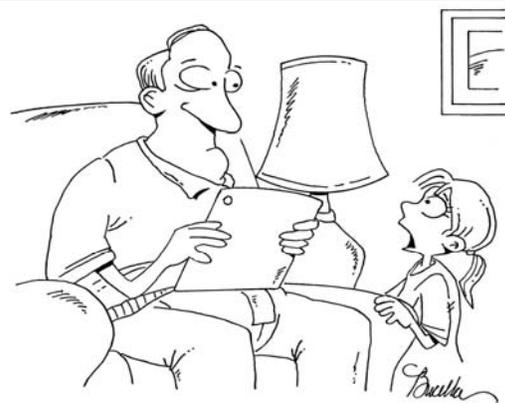
By following these guidelines it is a very positive step towards the most important thing - going home safe at the end of each day to our families, friends and loved ones.

WHAT IS HAZARD RECOGNITION?

Hazard recognition is a means of identifying, assessing and prioritizing hazards, both existing and potential. Hazards are always present, regardless of the location and it is imperative to be able to demonstrate hazard recognition in all areas and aspects of your workplace and personal life.

Employers have the legal responsibility to identify and control, to the best of their ability, workplace hazards to protect workers. Likewise, workers have the right to know about the hazards of the job and how to protect themselves, and the responsibility to ensure they are following company rules that outline the hazard and control process. It is the responsibility of all workers to understand what a hazard is, what the dangers are, how they can affect people, property, and the environment, and how to prevent them. The goal of hazard recognition is not to place blame on individuals or become an enforcer, but to promote a safer workplace and improve teamwork and communication by creating better recognition and control habits. Hazards are to be dealt with and communicated in a timely manner to prevent incidents and injuries from occurring. How much time you spend recognizing and controlling hazards will affect the safety of your workplace.

The goal of a safe workplace is to prevent incidents and injuries from happening, and it takes all workers, regardless of role or seniority, to accomplish this. Recognition of hazards is of the utmost importance for the safety of all those that work for an organization.



“Grandpa, what was it like living off the grid for most of your life?”

RIDDLES OF THE MONTH

1. Without looking at a calendar name a boys name using 5 consecutive first letters of 5 consecutive months.
2. I am a soldier and I really hate one month. Which month am I talking about??
3. What is something you will never see again?
4. What has a foot on each side and one in the middle?
5. Take off my skin. I won't cry, but you will. What am I?

Answers on Page 2

FIVE RULES OF LADDER SAFETY

Falls are the leading cause of death in and around the home. The National Safety Council, notes that over 6,000 people die from falls in and around the home each year and more than 30,000 people are injured each year by falls involving ladders. Most of these accidents occur because the victims violate the basic rules of ladder safety.

RULE 1: SELECT THE RIGHT LADDER FOR THE JOB

There are many types of ladders available, each intended for a specific purpose. Most work requires ladders designed for either type 1 industrial or type II commercial.

Type I Industrial – Heavy-duty with a load capacity not more than 250 pounds.

Type II Commercial – Medium-duty with a load capacity not more than 225 pounds (suited for painting and similar tasks).

Regardless of the type or construction be sure the ladder has label certifying that it complies with specifications of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and that it is listed by Underwriter Laboratories. Be sure the ladder is long enough to work from without using the top 3 feet. If the work involves possible contact with sources of electrical current an aluminum ladder is not suitable.

RULE 2: INSPECT THE LADDER BEFORE YOU USE IT

Any ladder can develop a problem which can render it unsafe. Each time you use a ladder, inspect it for loose or damaged rungs, steps, rails or braces. Also check for loose screws, bolts, hinges and other hardware. If the ladder has any type of defect, it must be repaired or the ladder must be replaced. Never use a ladder which is defective.

RULE 3: SET UP THE LADDER WITH CARE

No matter how safe the ladder is, if it is placed in a dangerous location lock or block any nearby door that opens toward you. The area around the base should be uncluttered, and the ladder should be set on a solid, level surface. Stepladders should be fully opened. Straight ladder should be placed at a four-to-one ratio. This means the base should be one foot away from the wall or other vertical surface for every four feet of height to the point of support. If you plan to climb onto a roof or platform from a ladder, the ladder must extend above the edge at least three feet and be tied off at the top.

RULE 4: CLIMB AND DESCEND LADDERS CAUTIOUSLY

Always face the ladder and use both hands to climb and descend. Keep three limbs on the ladder at all times. Carry tools in a tool belt or raise and lower them with a hand line.

RULE 5: USE COMMON SENSE WHEN WORKING ON A LADDER

Always hold on with one hand and never reach too far to either side or to the rear. Never climb higher than the second step from the top on a stepladder or the third from the top on straight ladder.

REMEMBER: Ladders are tools. Many of the basic safety rules that apply to most tools also apply to the safe use of a ladder:

- If you feel tired, dizzy, or are prone to losing your balance, stay off the ladder.
- Do not use ladders in high winds or storms.
- Wear clean slip-resistant shoes. Shoes with leather soles are not appropriate for ladder use since they are not considered sufficiently slip resistant.
- The ladder you select must be the right size for the job.
- Only one person at a time is permitted on a ladder unless the ladder is specifically designed for more than one climber (such as a Trestle Ladder).
- Read the safety information labels on the ladder. The on-product safety information is specific to the particular type of ladder on which it appears. The climber is not considered qualified or adequately trained to use the ladder until familiar with this information.

SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

June is National Safety Month. National Safety Month focuses on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the roads and in our homes and communities.

Safety is no accident. To address this, here are some general safety tips.

MAKE EVACUATION PLANS AND CONDUCT DRILLS AT WORK AND AT HOME

Check your stock of first aid supplies and other emergency gear such as a flashlight, fire extinguisher, car battery charger cables, emergency reflective gear, and battery power for mobile devices. If anything is missing, replace it immediately. For more information on building a safety kit, visit Ready.gov.

LEARN A SAFETY SKILL

Having skills such as first aid, CPR or AED or knowing how to use a fire extinguisher or how to change a flat tire can help better prepare you for the unexpected. Find safety courses on the Red Cross website, or by searching a local community center.

DISPOSE OF EXPIRED, UNLABELED, UNIDENTIFIABLE, OR UNUSED MEDICATION

Check the medications around the house. Discard any that are long expired, unlabeled or no longer used. Research how to discard such medications properly, and do not just empty them in the sink or toilet. Many fire or police departments have drop-offs for such meds, or find a local prescription drop off location by visiting the Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Agency Controlled Substance Public Disposal Locations webpage.

TOUR YOUR PLACE OF BUSINESS, HOME OR SUMMER RETREAT FOR HAZARDS

Are there tripping hazards (loose carpet or floor boards, unmarked step-ups), sharp edges or corners on furniture, appliances, or other items? Are tools in good shape? Are liquid containers properly closed and labeled? Are items secure on shelves or in closets so they won't come crashing down? Are storage units properly anchored so they won't fall?

SO MUCH TO SAFEGUARD, SO LITTLE TIME

Your safety checklist may seem long—but don't just sit there, do something! Even one activity to protect your family or coworkers can create a ripple effect on the overall safety at home or on the job, and it could even energize you to continue completing more tasks.

Remember, never leave safety up to another person. Let's help each other out—and then everyone benefits from safety.

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless.

Thomas A. Edison
American inventor (1847– 1931)

Happy Father's Day

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RIDDLES OF THE MONTH ANSWERS

1. JASON—July, August, September, October, November
2. March
3. Yesterday
4. A yardstick
5. An onion



"Siri, what time is it when the big hand is on the two and the little hand is on the ten?"