

Hazard Identification and Assessment in the Workplace

Hazard Identification and Assessment are important actions used to provide a safer workplace for employees. A disciplined and orderly approach can go a long way. Working together with employees to recognize hazards in the workplace, analyze those hazards, and implement corrective action can minimize the effects of potential hazards.

Gather Information on Known from Sources Including:

- Equipment operating manuals and procedures
- Safety data sheets
- OSHA 300 logs and incident reports
- Site safety committee meetings
- Workers compensation records
- Job safety analyses
- Worker first-hand knowledge and experience

Complete Detailed and Organized Site Inspections

- Regular inspections of all work areas with worker interviews
- Document your inspections with photos
- Incorporate all areas of the operations, including areas involved in previous incidents
- Use checklists to promote consistency
- Be certain to examine the consequences of changing any operations before implementation

Conduct Incident Investigations

- Have an established incident investigation team to promote consistency
- Train the team to be an investigative tool
- Include management and workers
- Encourage reporting and investigation of near misses
- Always search for the root cause(s). Never let the investigation become a blame game.
- Always answer the questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How



Identify Hazards Associated with Emergency and Non-Routine Situations Such as:

- Fires and Explosions
- Chemical Releases
- Non-routine tasks, such as an unplanned shutdown
- Structural Collapse
- Disease Outbreak
- Weather Emergencies
- Medical Emergencies
- Workplace Violence

Identify the Different Hazard Groups:

- Chemical Hazards
- Physical Hazards
- Biological Hazards
- Ergonomic Risk Factors
- Quantitative Exposure such as air samplings and instrument readings
- Medical Records to reveal cases of musculoskeletal injuries, dermatitis, hearing loss, respiratory exposures, etc.

Prioritize Hazards Based on Severity and Frequency

- Consider the likelihood the hazard will occur, the severity if it does, and the impact on personnel and property
- Implement interim controls as needed until a permanent solution is possible
- Address the greatest risks first



Source: www.osha.gov

SafetyConnection: Hazard Identification and Assessment in the Workplace

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