

COMPANY SAFETY MEETING

HAZARD RECOGNITION

The goal of hazard recognition is to ensure that the workplace is as safe as possible and to keep employees from being harmed or injured. It is an ongoing initiative that is never finished. Every employee must be involved in identifying and abating hazards: To be effective in controlling and avoiding hazards, employees must first understand what those hazards are.

What is a Hazard?

OSHA defines a hazard as "**a danger which threatens physical harm to employees.**" This includes "**unsafe workplace conditions or practices (dangers) that could cause injuries or illnesses (harm) to employees.**" A hazard may be an **object** (tools, equipment, machinery, or materials) or even a person (distracted, not familiar with the work, or under the weather).

What is Hazard Recognition?

Hazard Recognition, or Hazard Identification, is extremely important in **accident prevention.** By recognizing hazards' characteristics and properties, we can determine the proper controls. Unfortunately, recognizing hazards is not as easy as it sounds.

Five Considerations to Help Recognize and Identify Hazards:

1. Many workplaces contain hazardous materials and toxic chemicals (solvents, acids, bases, detergents), used at various stages of the construction process.
2. Stationary machinery and equipment may not be properly guarded, or in poor working order because of poor preventive/corrective maintenance.
3. Tools may not be properly maintained. Saws may not be sharpened, or safety harnesses may be old and in need of replacement.
4. The work environment might include extreme noise, flammable or combustible atmospheres, or poor workstation design. Floors may be slippery, and the aisles cluttered. Guardrails, ladders, or floor hole covers may be missing or damaged.
5. Employees might be fatigued, distracted, under-trained or complacent.

Some or all of these potential safety hazards may exist in the workplace. All supervisors and workers should recognize workplace hazards to ensure that they are identified and controlled.

As you begin work, ask yourself:

1. Do I have the right tools/equipment for the job?
2. Have I inspected my tools/equipment to make sure they are in good repair or am I trying to "get by"?
3. Is the work laid out to provide safe completion of the job?
4. Are the materials I am using safe, and do I need additional personal protective equipment such as safety glasses, gloves, hard hat, respirator, etc.?
5. Is there a safer way to accomplish the task? (**Refer to the hierarchy of controls**)
6. Are all the necessary equipment guards in place?

Discussion Questions:

1. Name two ways we can identify hazards in the workplace.
2. Who should be involved in the hazard recognition process?

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SUPERINTENDENT: _____ **FOREMAN:** _____

PROJECT: _____ **WORK AREA:** _____ **DATE:** _____

INSTRUCTOR SIGNATURE: _____ **TITLE:** _____

ATTENDEE SIGNATURES

1.	11.
2.	12.
3.	13.
4.	14.
5.	15.
6.	16.
7.	17.
8.	18.
9.	19.
10.	20.

JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA)

MAJOR TASKS TO COMPLETE	HAZARDS INVOLVED	CONTROL MEASURES

ADDITIONAL TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

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