

OFFICE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE EDITION

WHAT IS A HAZARD?

A hazard is defined as anything with the potential to cause harm. This harm can manifest as injury, ill health, damage to property, or damage to the environment. Hazards are not just physical dangers but can also include chemical, biological, ergonomic, and psychosocial factors.

CLASSIFICATION OF HAZARDS



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IDENTIFYING HAZARDS IN YOUR WORKPLACE

Conduct Regular Walkthroughs – Assess each area critically. Ask: What could go wrong? What if equipment is misused?

Engage Your Team – Staff often notice hazards early. Encourage open feedback.

Review Past Incidents and Near Misses – Learn from past mistakes to avoid repeat issues.

Use Checklists and Risk Assessment Tools— Structured tools help ensure nothing is overlooked. Don't rely on memory alone.

Observe Tasks in Real Time- Watch how tasks are performed. Are shortcuts being taken? Is PPE being worn correctly?

WHEN YOU SPOT A HAZARD, TAKE ACTION:

- Report it immediately to your Supervisor or the Office of Occupational Health and Safety (OOHAS);
- *If safe*, take immediate steps to reduce the risk;
- Follow up with your Supervisor or OOHAS to ensure corrective actions are taken.

Hazard identification is not a one-time activity; it is a daily discipline. Whether you are in an office, laboratory, classroom, or construction zone, your alertness can prevent injury or even save a life.

