

Hazard Identification and Prevention (NDLON-OSHA)

SECOND TRAIN THE TRAINER

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Activity #1: WHAT IS A HAZARD?

A hazard is the potential for harm (physical or mental). In practical terms, a hazard often is associated with a condition or activity that, if left uncontrolled, can result in an injury or illness. Identifying hazards and eliminating or controlling them as early as possible will help prevent injuries and illnesses.

Job hazards can be divided into the following categories:



Safety hazards can cause immediate accidents and injuries. Examples are hot surfaces, broken ladders, and slippery floors. Safety hazards can result in burns, cuts, broken bones, electric shock, or death.

Chemical and biological hazards are agents that can make you sick. They can get into the body through the nose, mouth, or skin to cause harm.



- Chemical hazards are gases, vapors, liquids, fumes or dusts that can result in poisoning, lung disease, skin irritation, or damage to other parts of the body. Examples include cleaning products, asbestos, and pesticides.
- Biological hazards are living organisms that can cause infectious diseases and allergies. They include viruses, bacteria, and molds.

Other hazards are those that cannot be classified into the other categories but can cause health or safety problems for workers. This can include stress, violence, and ergonomic hazards.

Some hazards can harm a person right away, like safety hazards or chemicals that cause rashes. But sometimes the symptoms of illness appear months or years later. These long-term effects, for example, might include wear and tear on the body from repetitive motion, or lung disease from asbestos exposure or even cancer.



Have you identified any of these risks at your work site?

Activity #2: MAPPING



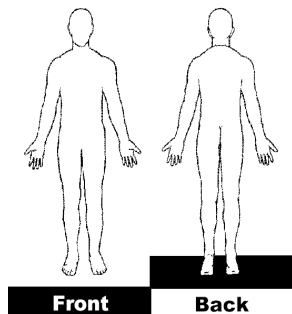
Many times workers do not know why they get hurt or sick on the job and this activity will develop that awareness.

Objectives

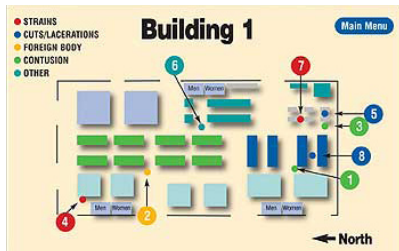
- Identify the safety and health hazards (problems) that participants are exposed to.
- Learn how these hazards affect their safety and health.
- Make a plan to reduce or get rid of these hazards and problems.
- Develop a sense of solidarity among the workers.

There are two different types of maps:

- **Body Maps:** A body map is an image that is used to show what part of a worker's body is getting hurt, sick or stressed by their job. Workers can use body maps to find out what injuries or illnesses workers have in common.



- **Hazard Maps:** A Hazard map shows where there are health and safety problems at work and allows for workers to identify potential risks.



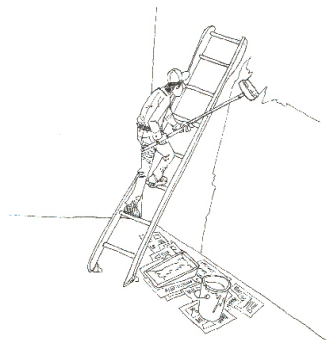
Activity #3: CONTROLLING HAZARDS

We have learned what a hazard is and the problems that hazards cause. We have also learned to identify potential hazards at the worksite. But that is not enough to keep day laborers safe. There are many factors that can cause an accident at the job:

- When the work pace is too fast, the procedures are confusing, the staffing is inadequate, or the workload is too heavy.



- When workers are having trouble with equipment or tools, with the way the work area is set up, with the air quality, or with the temperature.
- When there is an inadequate safety program, a lack of involvement by all levels of management, a lack of resources committed to safety, poor communication, or no system for reporting problems.



- When workers contribute to a hazardous situation. These can include inexperience, not enough training, fatigue, stress, and problems with communication.

Hierarchy of Hazard Controls

Here's a list of strategies or ways to deal with hazards in order of effectiveness in case a hazard is identified at your worksite:



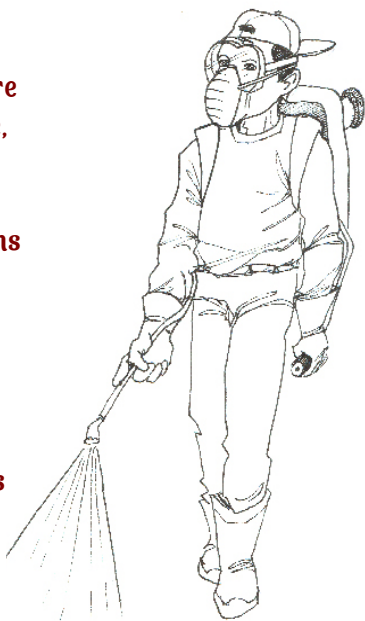
The first thing you need to do is **eliminate** the hazard.

The second thing you can do is **substitute** the hazard.

If you can't eliminate or substitute the hazard, the next best thing you can do is using **engineering controls or safeguarding technology**.

If the previous strategies are not available at your worksite, what you can do is apply what is called **administrative controls**, which basically means changing the way things are done and getting trained.

And last, the least effective way of controlling a hazard is wearing **personal protective equipment** or PPE.



We will focus on personal protective equipment because oftentimes, day laborers have different realities than other workers. The job site changes and the type of work they do can change on a daily basis.



Activity #4: PPE- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Definition: Personal protective equipment, or PPE, is designed to protect workers from serious workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards. Besides face shields, safety glasses, hard hats, and safety shoes, protective equipment includes a variety of devices and garments such as goggles, coveralls, gloves, vests, earplugs, and respirators. In other words, PPE is equipment worn on the body that protects a worker from exposure to a hazard.

Why is PPE usually considered less effective than the other methods?

Employer Responsibilities:

Employers must assess the workplace to determine possible hazards. If any hazards are present, the employer must provide protective equipment that properly fits and require workers to use it.

The employer must also train the workers that are required to wear protective equipment on how to do the following:



- Use protective equipment properly
- Be aware of when personal protective equipment is necessary
- Know what kind of protective equipment is necessary
- Understand the limitations of personal protective equipment in protecting workers from injury
- Put on, adjust, wear, and take off personal protective equipment
- Maintain protective equipment properly



Contacting OSHA

If you identify a hazard at your job, please report it!

To report an emergency, file a complaint or seek OSHA advice, assistance or products, call (800) 321-OSHA or contact your nearest OSHA regional or area office.

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