

HAZARD HUNT TOOLBOX

The following information is provided to assist you in your milestone #1 hazard hunt activities.

What is a hazard?

A **hazard** is any source of potential damage, harm or adverse health effects on something or someone under certain conditions at work.

Hazard Hunt Tips (Some how to's):

- 1. Look At Your Own Accident History.** What kinds of incidents and injuries have taken place in your company, and especially in your own operation, during the past year? Knowing this can help you focus your time and attention on conditions and behaviors that have the greatest probability of causing an accident.
- 2. Look at Near Miss data.** Near Miss data can provide important information on unsafe acts or unsafe conditions that may not have been adequately addressed and mitigated. Please contact your ESH representative for this data.
- 3. Look at new or changed work processes or procedures.** New or changed work processes or procedures, even in the slightest way, require a new hazard risk assessment and Job Hazard Analysis to see if any new hazards have not been identified.
- 4. Review your safety inspections result at work center level.** Sometimes checklist items are left unattended and not addressed.
- 5. Be Familiar With Safety and Health Codes.** Knowledge of safety standards helps you anticipate and avoid known, potentially dangerous, situations. Use resources available to you such as the safety committee and your safety director, if applicable.
- 6. Review Job Hazard Analyses (JHAs).** Chances are, any JHAs that have been done in the past involve high-risk tasks. These analyses not only pinpoint the hazards, they list which accident prevention strategies should be in place as a reminder of what you should look for.
- 7. Allocate Your Inspection Time.** Spend more time in locations of the work environment where known hazards exist, where past incidents have taken place, and where you anticipate issues. All areas of the operation probably do not warrant the same amount of time and attention.
- 8. Vary Your Inspection Schedule.** If you are responsible for a large operation, sample conditions in one or more smaller sections periodically, rather than trying to survey the entire area every time. Some sections or work groups may deserve your attention frequently, others only now and then.
- 9. Know your Work Teams.** Ops tempo, shift work, long or irregular work hours, new employees, new team members unfamiliar with the work being performed.

General Examples of Workplace Hazards and Effects

Workplace hazards can come from a wide range of sources. General examples include any substance, material, process or practice that has the ability to cause harm or adverse health effect to a person under certain conditions. See Table 1.

Table 1 Examples of Hazards and Their Effects		
Workplace Hazard	Example of Hazard	Example of Harm Caused
Thing	Knife	Cut
Substance	Benzene	Leukemia
Material	Asbestos	Mesothelioma
Source of Energy	Electricity	Shock, electrocution
Condition	Wet floor	Slips, falls
Process	Welding	Metal fume fever
Practice	Hard rock mining	Silicosis

As shown in Table 1, workplace hazards also include practices or conditions that release uncontrolled energy like:

- an object that could fall from a height (potential or gravitational energy),
- a run-away chemical reaction (chemical energy),
- the release of compressed gas or steam (pressure; high temperature),
- entanglement of hair or clothing in rotating equipment (kinetic energy), or
- contact with electrodes of a battery or capacitor (electrical energy).