

Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

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1. Hazard vs. Risk

- A **hazard** is anything with the potential to cause harm; **risk** is the likelihood and severity of that harm actually occurring.

2. Types of Workplace Hazards

- Physical (noise, machinery), chemical (fumes, toxic substances), biological (bacteria, viruses), ergonomic (poor posture), and psychosocial (stress, harassment).

3. The Risk Assessment Process

- Identify hazards.
- Determine who might be harmed and how.
- Evaluate the risk (likelihood x severity).
- Implement control measures.
- Record findings and review periodically.

4. Hierarchy of Controls

- Elimination > Substitution > Engineering controls > Administrative controls > Personal Protective Equipment (most to least effective).

5. Documentation

- Risk assessments must be documented and communicated to all affected workers, and reviewed after any incident or workplace change.