

## Examples of Common Workplace Hazards

The following is a list of common workplace hazards encountered within AHS. The list is broken down into the four main categories of hazards; Physical, Chemical, Biological and Psychological. This list is not all-inclusive. When completing the Hazard Identification, Assessment and Control Worksheet, list all of the hazards which are present at the worksite. For more information on hazards, contact Workplace Health and Safety Services.

### Physical Hazards:

Physical hazards cause injury to workers when an object, piece of equipment or material comes in contact with a worker. Physical hazards are often associated with an uncontrolled source of energy; kinetic, electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic, etc. Examples of physical hazards are:

- Flash arc
- Exposure to unguarded or unprotected electrical equipment
- Working with high voltage equipment
- Exposure to Electro-magnetic fields
- Incorrect wiring
- Loose surface conditions
- Wet surface conditions
- Object(s) on the floor
- Blocked walkways
- Poor design or lay-out of work area
- Uneven surfaces
- Small or inadequate walkways
- Force of movement
- Repetition of movement
- Awkward Postures
- Sustained / static postures
- Contract stress
- Vibration
- Poor work station design
- Lighting conditions
- Temperature extremes
- Humidity extremes
- Exposure to sunlight / UV radiation
- Working at heights
- Restricted / confined spaces
- Working with powered equipment
- Working with unguarded equipment
- Pinch points
- Nip points
- Unguarded machines or work areas
- Overhead hazards
- Sharp edges
- Fast moving equipment

### Chemical Hazards:

Chemical hazards are substances which, because of its characteristics and effects, may cause harm to human health and safety. Chemical hazards can be broken down to include exposure to; vapours, gasses, mists, dusts, fumes and smoke. Examples of chemical hazards include exposure to:

- Chemical reactions
- Production of chemicals
- Chemical incompatibility
- Chemical storage
- Flammable Substances
- Combustible substances
- Carcinogenic substances
- Mutagenic substances
- Teratogenic substances
- Oxidizing substances
- Corrosive substances
- Pressurized containers

### **Biological Hazards:**

Biological hazards are organisms or substances produced by organisms that may pose a threat to human health and safety. Biological hazards include exposure to:

- Blood or other body fluids or tissue
- Human waste
- Anthrax
- Fungi / moulds
- Bacteria and viruses
- Poisonous plants
- Animal waste
- Threat of insect or animal bites
- Drugs / cytotoxic substances

### **Psychological Hazards:**

Psychological hazards cause workers mental distress or distraction. Although a rather new hazard classification, it is critical that psychological hazards are thoroughly identified and controlled. Examples of psychological hazards include:

- Violence in the workplace
- Work pace
- Working alone
- Over / under worked
- Worker phobias
- Poor leadership
- Lack of motivation
- No procedures
- Bullying and harassment
- Client / patient aggression
- Fatigue
- Shift work