

PREVENT ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES WITH 3 STEPS.

Everybody has to work. Hazards in the workplace are expected everywhere, but especially in construction and industry jobs, where additional risks come from height, machinery, environmental hazards, and other dangers.

In dangerous fields like construction and industry, which contributed 20.7% of all worker fatalities in the US in 2017, employers need to effectively partner with their employees to keep the workplace as safe as possible.

Taking steps to recognize, evaluate, and control hazards in your workplace can prevent accidents and injuries. By first **RECOGNIZING** hazards in the work place, your team can work to **EVALUATE** the risks involved in the identified hazards, and then proceed to **CONTROL** the hazard through preventative and protective measures.

•RECOGNIZE•

•EVALUATE•

•CONTROL•

1. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Potential hazards in the workplace are any conditions that present the chance of injuring a worker. These can come from environmental risks, or from machinery or tools.

Make sure to account for these potential hazards:

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

- Work at height (above 6' in construction, above 4' in general industry)
- Work in confined space
- Hazardous floor conditions or unstable walking surfaces
- Hazardous weather conditions or excessive heat/cold
- Work in chemical environments
- Air-borne hazards: dust, asbestos
- Excessive noise

EQUIPMENT HAZARDS

- Work with power tools or hand tools
- Work with electric equipment: risk of shock
- Moving machinery: risk of getting caught-between
- Heavy manual lifting or repetitive motions

2. EVALUATE RELATED RISKS

$$\text{RISK} = \text{[frequency of exposure]} \times \text{[severity of potential damage]}$$

After identifying all of the potential hazards workers may be exposed to in the workplace, the second step is to evaluate how much risk is involved with each hazard.

EVALUATE RISK BY CONSIDERING:

1. How often workers will be exposed to the hazard under the current work plan
2. The severity of damage or injury that could be expected should an accident occur

3. CONTROL HAZARDS

The final step is to control potential hazards through prevention, administration, or protection.

PREVENTION

Eliminate the hazard or the activity that will encounter the hazard, or engineer controls to limit the hazard.

- Lockout/Tagout machinery
- Implement guard rails, positioning lifelines, etc
- Change timing/scope of work

ADMINISTRATION

Train and assess workers regularly so that they know:

- How to safely use the equipment involved in their work
- How to avoid potential hazards
- How to handle emergency situations should they occur

PROTECTION

Utilize Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): gloves, glasses, fall arrest systems, etc.

Although PPE is one of the most common solutions, it should be your last recourse in limiting hazards in the workplace.

