

Hazard hunt tips

Four Types of General Hazards

There are four different types of general hazards that can be identified and found in the workplace. They are:

Physical hazards. These are the most common. They can include: unguarded moving parts, worn or frayed electrical cords, noise, spills, and slips, trips and falls.

Ergonomic hazards. These occur when the body is placed in unusual or awkward positions or when performing tasks that have a repetitive motion. These types of activities can include: frequent or heavy lifting of objects, workstations that cannot be adjusted to the worker or activities that require awkward

Chemical hazards. These occur when workers can be exposed to chemicals, whether they are in solid, liquid, gas, aerosol or vapor form. These can include: solvents, cleaning solutions, fumes, airborne products produced during manufacturing, welding, gas combustion or flammable materials.

Biological hazards. Usually these occur when a person is exposed to infectious agents, blood products or bodily fluids, bacteria, viruses, and insecticides.

Everyday Practices that can be hazards

When hazard hunting, consider taking a look at the everyday practices in your shop or workplace. Are any of these hazards present? Routine?

- Using furniture (tables, chairs) or objects instead of a step stool or ladder.
- Using ladders without being footed or having stabilizing equipment attached.
- Operating equipment at improper speeds or in an unsafe manner.
- Using ladders as scaffolding or platforms.
- Using tools or equipment in an unsafe manner.
- Using defective tools or equipment in an unsafe manner.
- Removing or disabling machine guarding, safety devices or warning systems.
- Servicing equipment while in operation (ex. moving, electrified, under pressure).
- Failing to properly inspect, clean or maintain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Failing to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the task / job.
- Failing to warn others of a known, but accepted or unresolved workplace hazard.
- Working with improper or inadequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Using machinery, equipment or tools without the proper training or authorization.