

WHAT ARE WORKPLACE HAZARDS?

Hazards in the workplace may be either *health* hazards or *safety* hazards. Some characteristics of each are:

Safety hazards:

- Cause accidents and injuries
- Cause immediate harm
- May cause broken bones, cuts, bruises, sprains, and electrocutions

Health hazards:

- Cause disease or illness
- Disease may take years to develop
- Diseases include cancer, heart disease, hearing loss, reproductive problems

Some examples of health and safety hazards are:

HEALTH HAZARDS

Stress	Physical	Chemical	Biological
speed-up boring work repetitive work supervisor/worker problems worker/worker problems	noise heat or cold dusts vibration radiation lifting dampness repetitive motion	gases dusts cleaners acids heavy metals vapors/fumes smoke	contagious diseases insects dirty conditions

SAFETY HAZARDS

flammable materials unguarded machines unsafe ladders or scaffolding	explosive materials poor house keeping unsafe trenches	exposed wires sparks too much overtime	slippery floors blocked exits
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1. What other hazards have you encountered?
2. Where would you locate them on the above list?