

TYPES OF HAZARDS

Hazards come in many forms. Some are obvious, others are hidden or appear over time. Some common categories of hazards to be aware of:

Physical – things that can cause slips, trips, falls, cuts, burns, or electric shock

Ergonomic – caused by repetitive motion, awkward posture, or heavy lifting

Chemical – harmful substances like cleaning solutions, fumes, or flammable materials

Biological – bacteria, viruses, mold, and other infectious agents

Noise – loud environments that can damage hearing or make it hard to communicate

Environmental – extreme heat, cold, mud, poor lighting, or inadequate ventilation

Behavioral – unsafe actions, such as rushing, ignoring procedures, or taking shortcuts

Examples of common hazards:

- Blocked fire exits
- Frayed electrical cords
- Loose handrails or guardrails
- Poor lighting in high-traffic areas
- Slip hazards like leaks and spills
- Cluttered walkways and work areas
- Unlabeled chemical containers
- Excessive workplace noise
- Damaged ladders or scaffolding
- Missing machine guards
- Overloaded electrical outlets
- Unstable stacked materials



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Discussion

How does good housekeeping help prevent multiple types of hazards?

Why is it important to report hazards immediately instead of waiting?