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Health and Safety Violations Observed in Year 1 Bus Projects

During our Year 1 Bus Projects, several practices could have constituted health and safety violations had they occurred in a professional engineering environment. Misuse of tools and machines was a major concern. Team members, for example, frequently used power tools without wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), such as safety goggles or gloves. This would directly contravene occupational health and safety requirements in a professional environment, potentially putting people in danger of injury.

Furthermore, we regularly worked in chaotic or badly managed lab rooms, where wires and sharp objects were left exposed, posing trip hazards and raising the potential of unintended injuries. Another typical concern was the absence of safety briefings or risk assessments before commencing hands-on work. Teams usually plunged right into activities without first addressing emergency protocols or identifying potential workplace dangers.

In the actual world of engineering, this omission might result in avoidable accidents, legal liabilities, and disciplinary measures from regulatory agencies. If these initiatives had taken place on a job site or in industry, they would have required proper safety documentation as well as adherence to provincial workplace safety regulations, such as Newfoundland and Labrador's Occupational Health and Safety Act. Overall, these instances emphasize the need of establishing a safety culture early in engineering practice. Even at the student project level, raising awareness and responsibility may help prevent risky practices from transferring into professional work.