HAZARDS AND RISKS

What is the difference between 'hazard' and 'risk'?

A hazard is something that can cause harm, eg electricity, chemicals, working up a ladder, noise, a keyboard, a bully at work, stress.

Risk is the chance or probability that a person will be harmed or experience an adverse health effect once to a hazard. It may also apply to situations with property or equipment loss.

A risk is the chance, high or low, that any hazard will actually cause somebody harm.



For example, working alone away from your office can be a hazard. The risk of personal danger may be high. Electrical repair is a hazard. If someone accidentally turned on the power the worker's life will be in a 'high-risk' category.

Five Basic Workplace Hazards

There are five major types of hazards which can put both your health and your safety at risk.

- Chemical hazards 1.
- Physical hazards 2.
- Biological hazards 3.

1. CHEMICAL HAZARDS

- Ergonomic hazards or job related hazards 4. Psychological hazards or stress



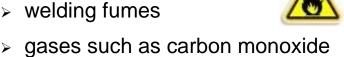
5.

products, bleaches, paints, and chemical agents, you need to understand what a chemical hazard is as well as how to protect yourself. Chemical hazards include:

you are working with

liquids such a cleanser,

- acids, and paints
- vapors and fumes such as
- welding fumes



cleaning

- products that can catch fire or
- explode 2. PHYSICAL HAZARDS

Physical hazards include:



Machinery

- Electrical power
- Noise
- Power and hand tools
- Working and walking surfaces
- > Trip and fall hazards
- Ladders and scaffolds
- Heat and cold

ventilation

3. BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Why be careful around ticks, mouse droppings, bird poop and wild animals?

Because you might get sick from working around certain animals, including people. Biological hazards include bacteria, viruses, insects, plants, birds, animals, and humans. The risks run from skin irritation and allergies to infections.

Dangers can come from:

- unclean restrooms
- > mold and fungus
- bacteria
- insect stings
- animal bites
- poorly stored medical waste

4. ERGONOMIC HAZARDS



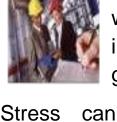
If your job is poorly designed, you can develop long term health problems. These problems can arise from simple things, like working for long periods in an awkward

position or having to make the same motions over and over again.

Problems can come from:

- lighting
- > chairs
- lifting
- > repeated movements
- computer screens

5. **PSYCHOLOGICAL HAZARDS**Those that are basically causing stress to a



Workplace

practice

worker. This kind of hazard troubles an individual very much to an extent that his general well-being is affected

n lead to long-term health problems.

Headaches, anxiety, and impatience are early signs of stress.

Workplace causes of stress include:

heavy workloads

- lack of control over the pace of workshift work
- ➤ noise

Example of Harm

silicosis

- working by
- yourself

 ➤ fear of job-loss
- What are examples of a hazard?

Example of

conflict with the employer

Hazard	Hazard	Caused
thing	knife	cut
substance	benzene	leukemia
material	asbestos	mesothelioma
source of	electricity	shock,
energy		electrocution
condition	wet floor	slips, falls
process	welding	metal fume fever

hard rock mining

