
What is a workplace hazard?

Hazards in the workplace occur when the working environment can cause injury, illness or death. The hazards can result from many of the different aspects of the working world, including equipment, dangerous materials, unsafe working practices and the behaviour of people.

For lone workers, hazards often present increased risk because they are less likely to have immediate support from colleagues. Our knowledge hub guides explore hazards for lone workers, including employees in housing, utilities, field services, local authorities, charities and health.

Types of Hazard

Workplace hazards fall into six core types – safety, biological, physical, ergonomic, chemical and workload.

1) Safety hazards

Safety hazards can affect any employee, but these are more likely to affect those who work with machinery or on a construction site. Safety hazards include slips, trips and falls, operating dangerous machinery and electrical hazards.

2) Biological hazards

Biological hazards are extremely dangerous. These include exposure to dangerous substances and diseases associated with working amongst animals, people, or infectious plant materials. Employees who work in hospitals, laboratories or various other outdoor occupations are at risk from biological hazards.

3) Physical hazards

Physical hazards can affect those who work in extreme weather conditions or in harmful environments. Workers that are exposed to continuous loud noise, radiation, sun rays and ultraviolet rays could be at risk.

4) Ergonomic hazards

Ergonomic hazards affect individuals whose work puts a strain on their body. Manual roles that require lifting or sitting for long periods can cause damage over time. These hazards may not be noticeable at first which makes them much harder to identify. If your staff use improperly adjusted

workstations or have poor posture when performing manual roles and heavy lifting, they may be at risk of injury.

5) Chemical hazards

Chemical hazards mainly threaten employees whose roles expose them to dangerous liquids, solvents or flammable gases. Individuals who are most likely to be affected are those working in cleaning facilities, engineers and employees in field-based roles. Exposure to harmful chemicals can cause illness, skin irritation, breathing problems and, in extreme cases, death.

6) Workload hazards

Workload hazards include issues that could cause stress or strain, such as workload, violence or aggression. These hazards can be experienced in any job role. However, lone workers may struggle to voice concerns due to their isolated work environment or find themselves a target for anti-social behaviour.

1. Nombra los seis tipos de peligros en el trabajo.

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|----------|----------|
| 1- _____ | 4- _____ |
| 2- _____ | 5- _____ |
| 3- _____ | 6- _____ |

2. ¿De qué se tratan cada uno? Explique.

3. Encuentre ejemplos de Voz pasiva y Voz activa.

4. Interprete las siguientes palabras:

- Knowledge:
- Hub guides:
- Lone workers:
- Slips:
- Trips:
- Sun rays:
- Strain:
- Workstations:
- Poor posture:
- Threaten:
- Anti-social behaviour:

Adaptado:

<https://staysafeapp.com/blog/6-types-of-workplace-hazard/>