

Workplace Hazard Categories and Examples

For use with Workplace Hazard Basics course



Caught in or between

- **Exposed parts** on machinery, equipment, or tools that can spin or rotate, cut, roll, press, or grip during operation, adjustment, or maintenance activities.
- **Materials that can engulf** someone like soil in excavations, silage in grain storage, or sludge.



Chemical or substance

- **Hazardous liquids, vapor, spray, dust, or gas** released into the air or on surfaces due to work activities, processes, or emergencies.
- **Biological substances** like blood, animal waste, and mold that can cause illness.
- **Low oxygen** areas or spaces caused by decay or fermentation; or by replacement gases like nitrogen.



Electrical

- **Exposed or damaged electrical system parts** such as plugs, receptacles, extension cords, and wires.
- **Energized overhead or buried power lines.**
- **Tools, machinery, or walking surfaces** that have become energized due to contact with energized power lines.



Falls

- **Working up high** from ladders, roofs, aerial lifts, cranes, etc.
- **Floor or roof holes, uneven surfaces,** and other defects on walkways or working surfaces.

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Fire or explosion

- **Flammable liquids** used around ignition sources like electric heaters, welding sparks, and open flame.
- **Combustible organic or metal dust** accumulations in and around process equipment.



Hit by or against

- **Projectiles and flying particles.**
- **Machinery or equipment** that can suddenly start up or become energized during servicing or installation due to the possible release of stored energy (e.g., pneumatic, hydraulic, electrical, thermal, etc.).
- **Stacked or overhead** items or materials that can fall or tip over and strike someone.
- **Violent individuals** committing robbery or assault.
- **Traffic and other danger zones** where forklifts, excavators, loaders, tractors, trucks, and cars operate.



Hot surface/Environment

- **Hot surfaces** exposed on process equipment.
- **Working outdoors in hot weather.**
- **Hot indoor** environments like foundries or structural fires.
- **Steam.**



Noise

- **Loud noise** from machinery, compressed-air tools, or other sources.

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Slip or Trip

- **Icy, wet, or oily** floors and outdoor pathways.
- **Debris, worn out carpeting, tools, or other items** on floors or pathways.
- **Uneven** walking surfaces.
- **Damaged stairs.**



Sprain/Strain

- **Awkward body positions** like squatting, kneeling, or reaching above shoulder level.
- **Gripping heavy objects** like cinder blocks or exerting high hand force while using tools like pruners.
- **Heavy, frequent, or awkward lifting.**
- **Vibration** when using hand tools like sanders, grinders, jackhammers, and chainsaws.
- **Repeated motions** related to production-line or keyboard work.



Other

- **Extreme cold** caused by weather, refrigerated storage rooms, liquid pressurized gases like nitrogen.
- **Radiation** from sources like x-ray equipment, microwave- or radio-frequency towers and equipment, welding arcs, and lasers.
- **Pressure extremes** present during diving, tunneling, or high elevation work.

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