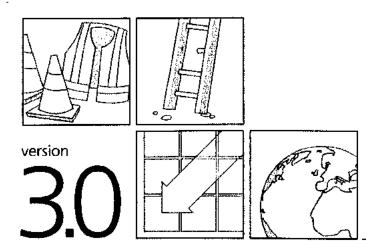
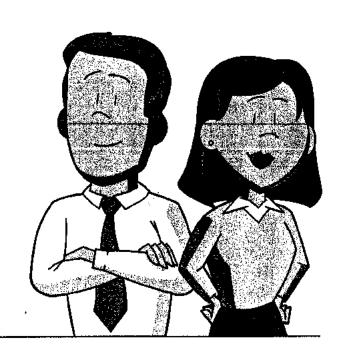


Managing safely

Your workbook





Your name:

ROLANDO TIAUZON

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Date of training:

28 JULY '07 - 01 AG '07



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Module one



Module 1: Introducing managing safely

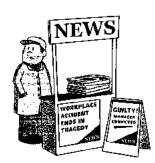
Key learning points

- 1. Why is it important to manage safely?
- 2. What are your responsibilities as a manager?

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Why is it important to manage safely?

Just for a moment, think about a serious accident happening in your organisation. What would it mean to you and your organisation?



Think about the injured workers, their personal costs, pain and suffering and the effect on their families. Workers may have long hospital stays and may never work again.

If it's shown that the accident happened because of a failure to manage health and safety risks in the organisation, the regulator may take action, which in turn may lead to prosecutions, fines and imprisonment.

There may also be a personal injury claim from the injured person. Maybe that doesn't alarm you too much – you're a reasonably comfortable outfit in financial terms, and the costs aren't going to hit you too hard.

But what about the replacement labour, accident investigation, downtime and increased insurance premiums? These are much greater than the costs of fines and compensation. Remember also that insurance won't pay the costs of criminal fines.

And what happens when the local or even the national press and television get hold of the story about the accident? What's the large multinational company that's recently placed an order with your organisation going to think?

What will other potential customers, clients, employees, contractors and the local and national community think about your organisation?

You'll probably find your loss of reputation will cost a lot more than those fines.



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Case study

A worker was using an unguarded drilling machine in a small engineering company employing 15 workers. The sleeve of his jumper caught on the rotating drill, entangling his arm. Both bones in his lower arm were broken and he suffered extensive tissue and muscle injury. He spent 12 days in hospital undergoing major surgery and was off work for three months. On his return he was placed on administrative duties for five months and he was unable to operate machinery for eight months. The managing director was prosecuted following the incident and the total costs to the business were around £45,000. Another cost was that two employees not involved in the accident were made redundant to prevent the company from going out of business.

Consequently, there are three key reasons to manage safely:

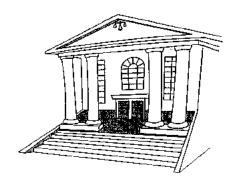


Moral: It's not acceptable for workers to suffer injury and ill health as a result of doing their job. Demonstrating that the organisation cares about staff safety and health will lead to a happier and more productive workforce.

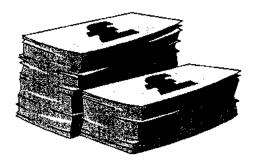
Case study

In 2000, the pharmaceutical manufacturer AstraZeneca started a 'Well-being' programme for employees, which focused on the home—work balance, rehabilitation and treatment, and health promotion. The company benefited tremendously from this strategy; in the UK alone, absence levels are 31 per cent lower than the UK average, saving an estimated £5 million per year. There was a 53 per cent reduction in the number of ergonomic-related health and safety cases per million hours worked by the firm's UK employees in the first 6 months of 2003, and a reduction in the number of work-related stress cases.

Legal: The law requires responsible people in organisations to assess reasonably foreseeable risks from the company's activities and to put in place control measures that will reduce the risks – so far as is reasonably practicable. This is quite fair; after all, it's the companies that create the risks!



Financial: As well as reducing the likelihood of fines and personal injury claims, managing health and safety well can save money through reduced insurance premiums and safer and more effective ways of working. A reputation as a health and safety-conscious employer can also open doors for you in gaining new business, retaining staff and recruiting new staff.



Case study

Over the past ten years, management and employees at the GlaxoSmithKline manufacturing site at Dartford have developed a programme that aims to improve health and safety through greater transparency and sharing responsibilities. Since 2000, GSK has enjoyed a 40 per cent reduction in employer's liability claims, thanks to the success of the programme.

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What are my responsibilities as a manager?

OK, so we've talked about 'the company' so far – now let's talk about you. As a manager you should already know that you have health and safety responsibilities.

As a manager, **you** are in the front line of safety. As the representative of the employer, **you** will make decisions about local safety practice. **You** are in control of what really happens.

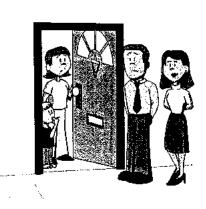




Responsibility leads to **accountability** – as a manager, you can delegate responsibility but you can't give away your accountability – you're ultimately accountable.

Let's go back to our opening scenario, where we asked you to think about a serious accident happening in your organisation. Put yourself in the position of the manager of the employee who's had the accident:

- you are accountable for assessing and managing the risks the employee is exposed to
- you will have to arrange replacement labour, carry out the accident investigation, report to customers that their orders have been delayed, and potentially liaise with enforcement officers, your insurance company and the media
- you will have to tell your employee's family that they won't be coming home tonight.





When you return to your company, make a list of your responsibilities and accountabilities as a manager.

Case study

An employee was run over by a rough terrain forklift truck while he was handling plants and helping to unload stillages. It appears that he had to unload stillages of plants in different places; the driver of the forklift truck drove off without checking that the road was clear and ran over the employee. The company didn't have a system of work for controlling vehicle movement on site. There was also no system for protecting staff from risks associated with transport. The case against the company and its director was heard in the Crown Court. The company was fined £10,000 plus costs of £8,853, and its director was fined £5,000.

This course will help you identify your responsibilities and accountabilities.

You need to know when you need to act, how to act, when not to act, when to pass things on to more senior managers, and when to call for help because you're out of your depth.

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Quiz

1. On average, people are killed at work every year.

This is approximately people every week.

2. On average, \$2.66. serious work-related injuries occur each year.

This is around one every!?.... minutes. A further employees are off work for over three days for less serious injuries every year.

3. On average, 38.5.1 days are lost each year due to workplace injuries or ill health.

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256 RIGER (1950)
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4. On average, And ... people leave the workforce each year, never to return, because of harm suffered at work.

This equates to around per week.



5. On average,..../ managers and directors are convicted each year.

On average, (2.2.6)... organisations are convicted each year and are fined on average £8,600. However, fines of over £100,000 are not uncommon.

This means that the number of reportable injuries would be reduced to around 45,000.

7. In general, a manager is ... festo safety risks.

8. Managers are Account to their actions and may be required to explain them to others.



9. Effective health and safety management can save you money – true or false?



Here are some examples of the benefits reported:

- a saving of £12 for every £1 spent
- A 73 per cent reduction in employee insurance claims
- 18 per cent fewer days lost to injuries
- · a 50 per cent reduction in civil claims!

10.Legally, an employer must be insured for at least £5.124.656	10. Legally,	an employer must	be insured for at	least £…∰.	114661901
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The insurance industry pays out around £1.3 billion in compensation each year.

11. Insurance will fully cover the financial losses if a worker is injured and cannot work – true or false?

there are/are no financial penalties if you're injured or ill and cannot work.

12. What is the cost of workplace accidents to society as a whole in Britain?

More than £....≦≘≘≘≘≘= this equates to 5–10 per cent of the trading profits of all UK companies.

Getting it right

So health and safety is another thing on your list as a manager, along with budgets, discipline, communications, legal matters, HR matters, sick leave, annual leave, resources and targets, to name but a few....

But think about it... Managing health and safety can give you a helping hand with managing all the other things that you have to deal with. Good health and safety management can:

- enhance your reputation
- · increase your profits
- · reduce wastage and insurance premiums
- maintain a happy and healthy team.

In fact, managing health and safety is key to your business. Integrate health and safety into everything your business does. Treat health and safety matters with the respect they deserve, just like other risks to your business.

It's all well and good to say you agree with this, but you also have to live up to what you say – your actions must match your words. So:

- think about health and safety when planning work
- talk about health and safety with your team
- demonstrate safe and healthy behaviour.

Summary

1. It's important to manage safely because...

2. As a manager, your responsibilities are...



Module two



Module 2: Assessing risks

Key learning points

- 1. What is risk?
- 2. What is a risk assessment?
- 3. How are risk assessments carried out?

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What is risk?

Risk is part of everyone's life – we can't avoid risks but we can put things in place to manage them effectively.

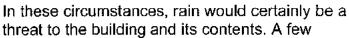
Can you remember, for example, when you first learned to drive? Perhaps you were looking forward to your first lesson because you were eager to become independent. On the other hand, you might have been a bit apprehensive about getting behind the wheel for the first time. Either way, learning to drive involves a degree of risk. Because you were learning, you'd have had a qualified instructor sitting next to you, so the risk would have been well managed.

Learning to drive helped you learn to manage risks for yourself, as well as giving you a skill.

There'll always be a small risk in taking driving lessons, but without it you'll never learn to drive – a skill which you're likely to use throughout your life.

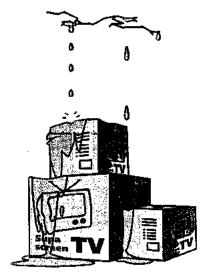
So what do we really mean by risk?

Imagine that you own a warehouse distribution company. The warehouse is an old building and the roof is in need of some repair. You're concerned about poor weather, since this could damage the building and its contents.



moments of rain, sleet or snow wouldn't make any difference, but a long downpour would be much more of a problem. So the question you have to ask is 'how likely is it to rain?'

If you decided to do nothing about the roof, and one night it did rain, the extent of the damage would depend on the contents of the warehouse and their value.



Let's suppose the contents are plastic garden furniture designed to be outside in all weathers, which can be easily dried off. In this case there'd be little damage.

On the other hand, if the contents were television sets, they'd be completely ruined by the rain. Stock would have to be written off at a large cost to your company.

The risk of a downpour causing damage to garden furniture is very low, but the risk of damage to a stack of television sets is much higher.

On top of that, you might conclude that the risk of a downpour happening at all is much higher in the winter than in the summer. So, if you were trying to decide whether to fix the

roof or leave it in its current condition, you'd probably ask yourself two questions: what are the chances it'll rain, and what could get damaged if it did?

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Basic terms that apply to risk assessment

In order to ensure a safe working environment, you need to understand the exact definition of risk and be able to estimate it, evaluate it and take action if necessary. Before we work our way through this process, let's take a look at the basic terms that apply to risk assessment.

A **hazard** is anything that has the potential to cause harm. This could be something as specialised as a piece of complicated machinery, or as commonplace as a cup of coffee. If it could be harmful in any way, then it's a hazard.



A hazardous event takes place when someone or something interacts with the hazard and allows it to cause harm.

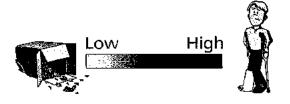
Suppose there's a hole in the ground. The hole (the hazard) by itself isn't causing any harm, but if someone tripped over it (the hazardous event) then it'd become harmful.

Every hazardous event has a likelihood and a consequence.

Likelihood is a measure of the chance that the hazardous event will occur. If the hole is in a busy area, such as a shop entrance, it's more likely someone will trip over it. However, if it's in an area that doesn't get a lot of traffic, such as a back yard, tripping over it would be less likely.

The **consequence** is the outcome of the hazardous event. If you tripped over a hole, there could be several possible outcomes: you might land on your feet with no damage at all, you might drop whatever you were carrying, or perhaps you could end up with a sprained ankle or even a fracture.





Risk is the combination of the likelihood of a hazardous event occurring and the consequence of the event.

Risk = likelihood x consequence

We'll use this definition of risk throughout this course. Consequence is also sometimes referred to as severity – these terms may be used interchangeably.

What is a risk assessment?

Risk assessment is a means of making sure that the most serious workplace risks are managed by cost-effective control measures. Assessing risks allows you to prioritise the action you take to control them. In this module, we discuss how to assess risk. In Module 3, we'll look at ways of controlling risk.

Put simply, a risk assessment is a careful examination of anything in your workplace that could cause people to suffer injury or ill health while they're at work.

Risk assessment is about deciding who might be harmed and then judging how likely it is that something will go wrong, and how serious the consequences could be. Once you've worked out what the risks are and how significant they are, you can concentrate on cutting them out – or at least controlling them.

- You don't have to carry out the assessments yourself if you're not confident, get help from someone who is appropriately qualified and trained and knows about what they're assessing. But remember, you're responsible for seeing that it's adequately done.
- It's always a good idea to involve other people in the risk assessment process —
 particularly the person whose job you're assessing. They may have noticed things
 which aren't immediately obvious to you. By involving your staff, you're also helping
 them to think about what could go wrong and how to avoid problems.

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A risk assessment enables you to:

Tell whether you're doing enough to protect your workforce and others from harm

For example, are you providing enough:

- training
- information
- personal protective equipment
- health surveillance?



Meet your legal requirements

All employers and self-employed people have a legal obligation to carry out risk assessments if they employ five or more people. If you don't, you could face prosecution and fines (the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999).

Demonstrate good business practice and improve business performance

Understanding the risks that face your business will help you to manage it better, with:

- potential cost savings
- · reduced insurance premiums
- · enhanced reputation.

Remember, accidents and ill health can have a devastating effect – they can ruin lives and your business.

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Case study 1

A nurse, who had a long history of back complaints, was required to do work involving heavy manual handling of patients. She wasn't sent to the occupational health department to assess her fitness. The work aggravated her injuries and resulted in surgery and retirement on grounds of ill health. She claimed compensation from her employers and was awarded £16,000. The judgment recognised the failure of the employer to carry out a manual handling risk assessment.

Case study 2

A kitchen designer and manufacturer felt that he wasn't realising the full potential of the workforce – he wanted to get them more involved in all aspects of the business. Weekly meetings now cover everything, including risks! The business owner commented: 'Since we've been talking about risk, we're more aware of potential hazards... In 16 months we haven't had a single injury.'

Case study 3

A company providing services to the travel industry assessed the risks of its shrink-wrapping facilities. As a result, it was able to reduce the risk of manual handling injuries to employees, get staff involved with risk assessment and develop business processes. The company is now aiming for quality management certification and also targeting bigger customers, who expect to see proof that their suppliers are taking health and safety seriously.

Did you know...?



Accidents cost UK industry at least £3.5 billion per year. This is equivalent to 4 per cent of the gross profits of UK industry, or £143 per employee per year (HSE 1999).

How do we carry out risk assessments?

Risk assessment doesn't have to be complicated – what's important is that you concentrate on significant hazards which could result in serious harm or affect a number of people.

When carrying out a risk assessment, you need to:

Step 1: make a list of the work tasks that are your responsibility

Step 2: identify the risks – what are the hazards, who might be harmed and how?

Once you've recorded this information you can then:

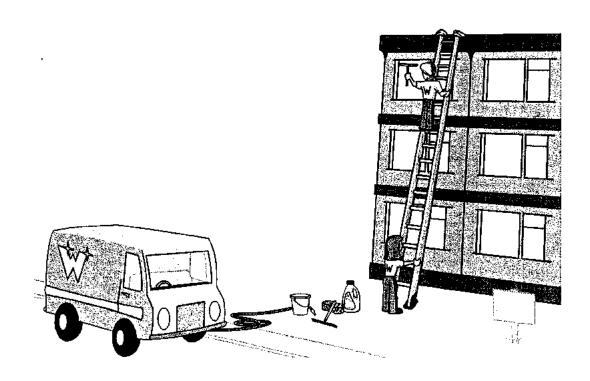
Step 3: estimate the risk

Step 4: evaluate the risk

Finally, you should:

Step 5: record your findings

Step 6: review your findings.



√Step 1. Make a list of the work tasks that are your responsibility.

Anything in your workplace that you manage – the activities that take place, the people involved in those activities, the equipment they use and the different locations they work in – can be a hazard in some circumstances.

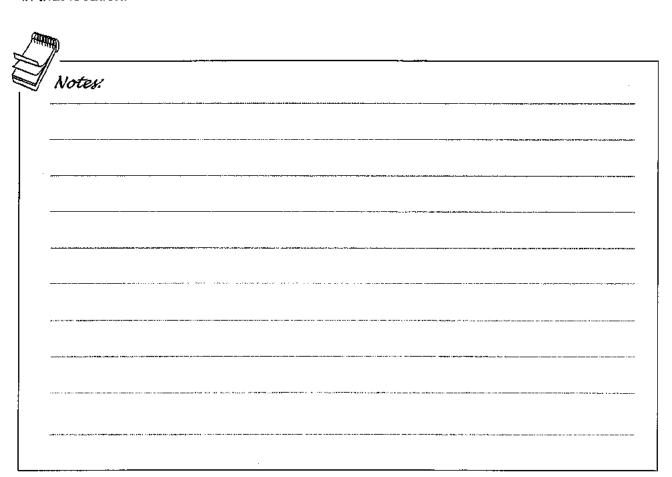
That's why it's essential that you make a list of everything you manage. The best way to do this is to walk around the workplace and see for yourself what's going on. If you don't do this, it's possible that a hazard could be overlooked and therefore not included in the risk assessment.

It's usual to include the following on your list:

a) A description of the location(s) you manage

You might find it useful to do a rough drawing or sketch of the areas.

You also need to think about common areas, like a corridor or stairs – there could be instances where a risk assessment is missed because two managers each thought the other was responsible for the activity in that location.





b) The people who work in the area on a regular basis or from time to time

You need to consider staff who work both on and off site. For example, sales representatives and engineers may spend much of their time travelling and may not have a fixed place of work.

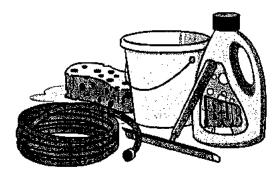
You're also responsible for people who visit the workplace, such as contractors, visitors, members of the public and trespassers. And don't forget young workers, trainees and expectant mothers, who may have additional needs.

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c) Permanent and temporary pieces of equipment and substances used at the location

If pieces of equipment – such as photocopiers and lifting equipment – are shared between departments, you'll need to agree with other managers who will be responsible for doing the risk assessment.

If you take delivery of new pieces of equipment or substances, you'll need to add these too.



Did you know...?



Young workers have 50 per cent more accidents than older workers (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work 2004).



d) Activities carried out at different locations

If you're responsible for more than one location, it's possible that some activities are carried out differently at each location. For example, someone may use a manual system to do a particular job at one site and an automated system at another site.

You'll need to carry out a separate risk assessment for both activities at both sites.

To record this information, you can use a work tasks list similar to the one on page 38.

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Step 2: Identify the risks – what are the hazards, who might be harmed and how?

Now that you've completed your work tasks list, you can identify the risks – to do this you need to know what the hazards are, who might be harmed and how.

So how can you identify the hazards?

- observe the physical layout at each location and the activities being carried out. For example, do people have enough space to work comfortably without being unnecessarily at risk?
- speak to your staff and their representatives, if they have any, and find out whether
 they consider anything in the workplace to be a hazard they may have noticed
 something which isn't obvious to you
- inspect relevant company records, such as accident records, manufacturer's instructions or data sheets
- read up on hazards relevant to your area. For example, do any of your staff have to work with hazardous chemicals or electricity? If they do, both you and your staff should have some knowledge of these topics.

To record this information, you can use a hazard inspection checklist like the one on page 39.

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Step 3: Estimate the risk

Now that you've identified what the hazards are, you'll need to weigh up how serious each risk is.

You need to consider two things:

- · how likely it is that something could go wrong
- how serious the outcome could be.

Consider the situation where window cleaners from a small local firm are using a ladder to clean windows on a three-storey block of flats during their monthly window-cleaning round.

How likely is it that they could fall? To assess this, you need to consider a number of factors, such as:

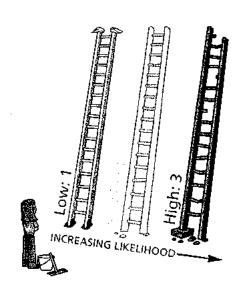
- the stability of the ladder
- the condition of the rungs
- the type of footwear
- the lighting levels.

When you've considered all relevant factors, you can rank the likelihood of the fall. You'll find it helpful to do this by using a three-point scale:

Low (1): if it's unlikely that the event will happen

Medium (2): if it's fairly likely that the event may happen

High (3): if it's likely that the event will happen.



Did you know ...?



In 2004/05, **30,213** major injuries to employees were reported (Health and Safety Commission 2004/05).

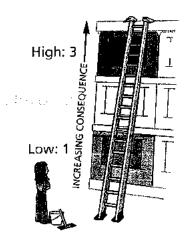
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Now that you've calculated the likelihood of the fall, you need to do the same for the consequence.

If a window cleaner were to fall off the ladder, what would the likely outcome be? Again, you need to consider a number of factors, such as:

- · the height of the fall
- whether there's anything to help stop the fall
- · what the person falls onto.

When you've considered all relevant factors, you can rank the seriousness of the fall. Again, you'll find it helpful to do this by using a three-point scale:



Low (1): minor injuries requiring first aid – for example, grazes or minor cuts

Medium (2): an injury requiring further medical assistance – for example, cuts needing stitches or broken bones

High (3): major injuries, such as paralysis, or death.

Now you can estimate the level of risk involved – whether something is going to be a low risk, a medium risk or a high risk. Remember: risk = likelihood x consequence.

We might decide that it's unlikely that the window cleaner will fall because the ladder is robust and secure, so we'll rank the likelihood as low (1). We might also decide that if the window cleaner were to fall from the lowest rungs of the ladder the injuries might not be so severe as if she fell from the upper rungs of the ladder – so the seriousness might be low (1) for the lower rungs and high (3) for the upper rungs.

For the two outcomes we've just described, we have two levels of risk:

$$1 \times 1 = 1$$
 and $1 \times 3 = 3$

Suppose in another situation the ladder is in poor shape, not secure and on uneven ground. So this time we rank the likelihood of falling from the ladder as high (3). Again, as above, the seriousness of the fall could range from low (1) to high (3). So we have two levels of risk:

$$3 \times 1 = 3$$
 and $3 \times 3 = 9$

Did you know...?



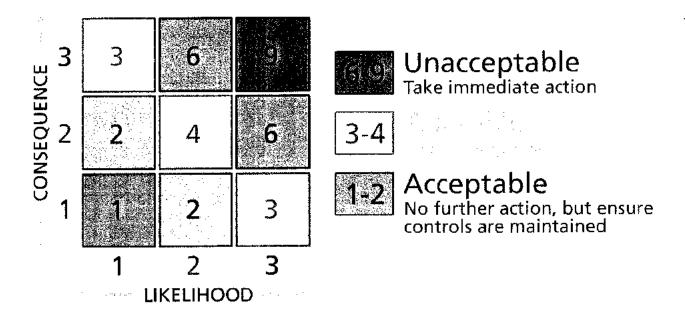
Every year over 2 million people suffer from ill health which they think is work-related (Health and Safety Commission 2004/05).

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Step 4: Evaluate the risk

OK, so now you've estimated the risk and worked out your risk level – what are you going to do about it?

Usually, the higher the risk level, the more serious the risk is and the more likely you'll need to take action. To make it easier to decide on the urgency of the action, you can allocate an action level to each level of risk.



This way of estimating and evaluating risk is called the 'risk matrix' approach – it's a commonly used tool.

Did you know ...?



In 2004/05 **35 million** working days were lost overall to work-related injury and ill health (1.5 days per worker). 28 million were due to ill health and 7 million to injury (Health and Safety Commission 2004/05).

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You can also use a five-point scale to estimate likelihood and consequence, with five descriptions for likelihood and five for consequence.

So the likelihood could be ranked as:

- 1) Very unlikely there's a 1 in a million chance of the hazardous event happening
- 2) Unlikely there's a 1 in 100,000 chance of the hazardous event happening
- 3) Fairly likely there's a 1 in 10,000 chance of the hazardous event happening
- 4) Likely there's a 1 in 1,000 chance of the hazardous event happening
- 5) Very likely there's a 1 in 100 chance of the hazardous event happening.

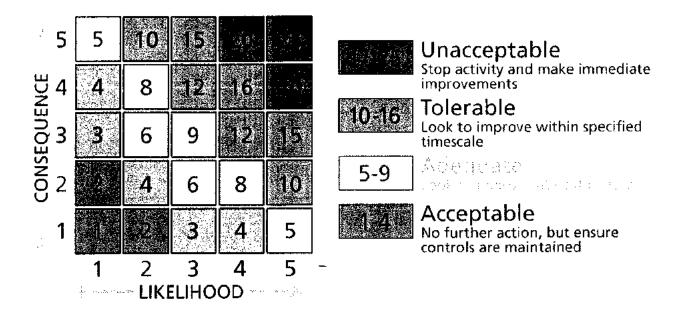
Consequence would be ranked as:

- 1) Insignificant no injury
- 2) Minor minor injuries needing first aid
- 3) Moderate up to three days' absence
- 4) Major more than three days' absence
- 5) Catastrophic death.

This approach has the advantage over the three-point scale of giving a better definition of the medium risk area.

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In the case of the 5 x 5 matrix, the actions levels might be:



Risk estimation techniques and action levels will vary from company to company. Remember, there are several ways to do a risk assessment. It is important that you use the right method. Usually, complex processes require more advanced methods.

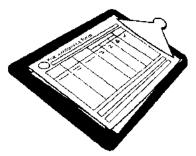


Find out how risk estimation and evaluation takes place in your organisation. If it's necessary for you to take action, you'll need to decide what to do to reduce the risk.

In Module 3, we'll discuss the different ways of reducing risk that are available to you.

It's important to remember that there's never a zero risk rating as there's always a chance of something happening. Also, once you've done something to reduce the risk, you'll need to estimate and evaluate the risk again to see whether you've done enough.

Step 5: Record your findings



Now that you've completed the risk assessment, you'll need to record your findings. This is not only good practice but it's also a legal requirement if you employ five or more people.

It doesn't matter what form you use to record your findings – it could be a risk assessment form similar to the one on page 40,

or one of your own. What matters is that the information you record about the activity – for example, the hazard, the likelihood and consequence of the hazardous event, and the risk level – is all there.

In general, it's helpful to record:

- · details of the person carrying out the risk assessment
- · the date and time of the assessment
- details of the location, people, equipment and activity you're assessing
- the hazards you've identified together with the risk level
- existing control measures and how well they work
- the date for review of the assessment.

Step 6: Review your findings

We're almost there! As we all know, things change – for example, work procedures change, we buy new equipment and staff come and go. The same applies when new information comes to light, such as information about substances you use at work. When changes like these are identified, you'll need to review your risk assessments.

It's good practice to review assessments annually or sooner, especially if you're made aware of new changes or information. Where risks ratings are low, you still need to review assessments to make sure they stay low.



In Module 3, we'll discuss the steps you need to take to control risks.

Did you know...?



people were killed at work in 2004/05 (Health and Safety Commission 2004/05).

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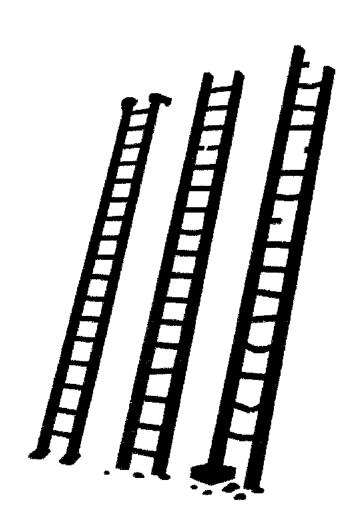
Risk assessment is a simple process, but here are some tips to make sure you do it well.

- Make sure your assessment is suitable and sufficient. Have you got the right
 information and are you using the right people and techniques? Sometimes you may
 need to seek advice from someone with specialist knowledge in a particular area, such
 as chemicals.
- Risk assessment involves making a judgment about risk clearly this isn't an exact science. However, ensuring the quality of the information you use to estimate likelihood and consequence helps to reduce the subjectivity. For example, use relevant accident and incident data.
- It's essential to involve the people whose activities you're assessing. You may think
 you know how a job is done they really know how it's done.
- Make sure your risk assessments are relevant to the local situation at your site. A risk
 assessment done somewhere else for an activity that also takes place on your site is
 not necessarily valid for your circumstances. You'll need to modify it to fit your situation.
 For example, different equipment may be used at different sites for the same task, and
 this may affect the risk.
- Where people work alone or encounter an unpredictable event, such as a new kind of
 machinery breakdown, they may have to do an 'on-the-spot' risk assessment to fit the
 new circumstances. As a manager, you should consider how competent your staff are
 to undertake such roles and assess these risks.

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Summary

- 1. Risk is...
- 2. A risk assessment is...
- 3. The six key stages of carrying out a risk assessment are...



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Department:

Location:

Activities				
Equipment				
People				
Locations				

ecklist	Department:
Hazard checklist	Company:
iosh	The state of the s

Managing safely

Site name:

Risk assessment recommended?	Yes No	Yes No	YesNo
cupation of fected			
Number and occupation of people affected			
hazard			
Description of the hazard			
Work activity			

Site name:

Department:

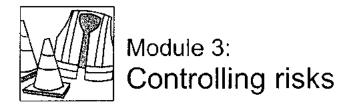
isk assessment form

Risk as	Company:
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	Are risk controls required?	ON Sək		ON No		ON Səv	
	Risk Flevel						
Assessment of risk	Likelihood Consequence Risk level						
Asse	Likelihood X level						
	People affected	Occupation:	Number:	Occupation:	Number:	Occupation:	Number:
	nazard, nazardous event and expected consequence						
	work						

Date of next review:	Signature:
Review period:	Position:
Date:	Assessor's name:

Module three



Key learning points

- 1. How do you reduce risk?
- 2. How do you decide which risk control to use?

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How do we reduce risk?

Now that you've learned how to assess risks in the work environment, what's next? It's one thing to know that a risk exists, but you need to know what to do about it.



Risk is an ever-present part of our daily lives, at work and at home. Risk is affected by several factors. For example, the risk of falling off a ladder will be affected by its stability, the distance you fall, your ability to use the ladder and your method of working.

Remember learning to drive again – a novice driver on the road is a risk to themselves and other road users, but having a qualified and experienced driving instructor and dual controls in the vehicle helps to control or mitigate this risk.

Risk control involves introducing changes in the way we work in order to minimise risk.

Whatever you plan to do, you'll need to estimate its impact on the likelihood and consequence of the risk.

Remember: risk = likelihood x consequence

Therefore, if you want to reduce risk, you need to look at:

- a. reducing the likelihood of the hazardous event happening
- b. reducing the consequence of the hazardous event
- c. reducing both factors.

Let's consider how implementing risk controls will impact on each of these factors.

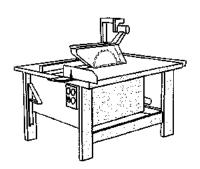
To show this, we'll use the five-point scales for likelihood and consequence that we introduced in Module 2.

Let's assume you manage a woodworking shop employing several cabinet makers. You've carried out a risk assessment and estimated and evaluated the risks on site, so you know that you need to reduce a number of risks.

a. Reducing the likelihood of the hazardous event

Suppose the likelihood of someone getting caught in the table saw is 4 and the consequence of this is 5, so that the risk rating is 20. Action is needed!

Providing a guard will *reduce the likelihood* of getting caught in the table saw. If we assume that the guard is used most but not all of the time, the likelihood is reduced to 1, which in turn makes the risk rating 5.



Did you know?



An injury to a worker using an unguarded drill cost a small engineering company £45,000 – and that wasn't all. The managing director was prosecuted and two employees had to be made redundant to keep the company afloat (www.hse.gov.uk).

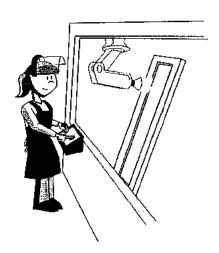
b. Reducing the consequences of the hazardous event



Suppose the likelihood of the paint sprayer being exposed to a harmful substance contained in the paint is 3 and the consequence of this is 4, giving a risk rating of 12. If the paint can be replaced with one containing less harmful substances, then the likelihood of exposure remains at 3 but the consequence of exposure can be reduced to 2, giving a risk rating of 6.

c. Reducing both likelihood and consequence

If in the above example, we use the less harmful paint, which reduces the consequence to 2, but we *also* replace the paint sprayer with a robot and we enclose the process, we can also reduce the likelihood of the worker being exposed to the harmful substance. The worker controls the spraying operation from outside the enclosure and only enters the enclosure to position and remove items for spraying. The likelihood could be reduced to 2, giving a risk rating of 4.



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The level of risk that's left after we've introduced our control measures is often referred to as **residual risk**.

For example, before you go on holiday, you'll make sure that your house is as secure as possible. You'll put the alarm system on, make sure that all the windows are closed and the doors are locked and you might even arrange for your neighbours to keep an eye on things. There is, though, still a possibility that these 'controls' could fail, and you end up being burgled.

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How do we decide which risk control to use?

We've shown in the previous examples how we can reduce the likelihood and/or consequence by using the guard, the face shield and the robot. These options all reduce the risk and are referred to collectively as **risk controls**.

To help decide on a risk control, there's an order or **hierarchy of risk control** that we can use. Basically, risk control options at the top of the hierarchy are the preferred option because they're much less reliant on people to do something. They can also protect larger numbers of people.

We can categorise risk control options as follows:

1. Eliminating the hazard

The most effective method of risk control is to completely eliminate the hazard.

One way to do this is to replace something hazardous with something that removes the hazard completely. So, instead of unloading a lorry-load of heavy gravel bags by hand, you'd use a crane to lift the bags off instead – this eliminates the need for manual handling.





Hazards can also be eliminated by avoiding some activities. A business may decide that since road travel is riskier than rail travel, it'll encourage its staff to travel by train for business trips where possible.

2. Reducing the hazard

The next preferred option is to reduce the hazard. So, instead of trying to carry a box of photocopier paper, which holds five reams, carry one or two reams at a time.





A business may also decide to continue with business travel by car, but specify that a rental vehicle meeting high safety standards is used, and that all staff who drive on company business must complete an approved defensive driving course.

Elimination or reduction are the best methods of risk control.

3. Preventing people coming into contact with the hazard | SOUNTE

These control measures rely on preventing people from coming into contact with the hazard by:

√a. putting distance between people and the hazard.



If, for example, hazardous chemicals are held on site, store them in a remote location. Separation can often keep most people away from hazards most of the time, but there are occasions when people will deliberately or inadvertently be close to the hazard.

If people need to get chemicals from the store, they'll be deliberately close to the hazard, while contractors, visitors and trespassers, who don't know it's there, will be inadvertently close.

Other examples include keeping people away from noisy machinery, and automated processing.

b. enclosing the hazard.

For example, place guarding around the dangerous parts of machinery to prevent operators coming into contact with them. Barriers occasionally need to be removed for good reasons, such as cleaning or maintenance.

However, this also means that they can be removed without good reason. You can make ourse that a machine sen't be encreted without the good

sure that a machine can't be operated without the guard being in place by connecting the machine guard to the equipment's power supply.

Other examples include putting an enclosure around a noisy machine, or carrying out all painting in a painting bay.

4. Safe systems of work CONTRIL

Safe systems of work include safe work procedures, permits to work and safety rules. These all detail how activities should be carried out to minimise risk.

If people understand how important it is to work in a particular way, it's more likely that they'll follow procedures, permits and rules effectively and consistently.

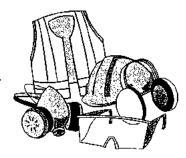




• When followed, safe systems of work can effectively minimise risk. A good example of this is specifying that a job in a noisy environment is done on rotation by two or three people, so that each individual's exposure to noise is limited. But for this to work, it's essential that people keep to their allocated time limit and rotate to other jobs.

5. Personal protective equipment

Using personal protective clothing and equipment – such as goggles, respiratory protection, gloves and hard hats – can prevent harm to people if they come into contact with the hazard. Personal protective equipment should not, however, be considered as a first-choice control measure, except in exceptional circumstances (eg an emergency). Its success always relies on people to use it!



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Remember – all of these methods have weaknesses but some are less prone to failure than others. Usually, risk controls that rely on people to do something or behave in a certain manner are weaker than those that don't. For example, even though you've given your employees PPE and they've been trained how to use it, you're relying on them to wear it and wear it correctly.

We need to be aware that we, as humans, have several options for the way we behave, and that we tend to opt for behaviour that gives us the most satisfaction. For example, if we can get the job done more quickly without using safety equipment we might be tempted to do that, especially if that's become the norm for us.

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Putting the hierarchy into practice

To explain the hierarchy, let's assume that you're employed as a manager for a waterworks company.

You've received a report that a water pipe has burst under a busy dual carriageway and it's your team's responsibility to repair it. You've calculated that it's going to take your team about two days to complete the work.

As team manager, you're responsible for deciding on and implementing control measures to protect the workforce from the traffic. It's important that you start at the top of the hierarchy and work your way *down*.



1. Eliminate the hazard

The most effective method of risk control is to eliminate the hazard.

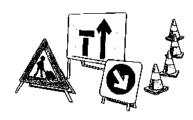
It's possible to do this by closing the road and diverting traffic while the work takes place. But is this *practical* for a two-day job?



2. Reduce the hazard

If it's not possible to close the road, you'll need to think about how you can reduce the hazard.

You may consider it safer to work at night when the traffic flow is lighter.



3. Prevent people coming into contact with the hazard

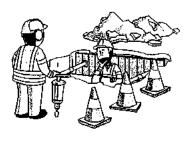
What if it's not practical to close the road or work at night? Then you'd need to consider another course of action.

Because this job will only take two days, you decide to minimise any risks by closing one lane of traffic. You'll also introduce a speed limit and set up a physical barrier to protect your workforce from the traffic.



4. Introduce a safe system of work

As well as closing one lane of traffic, you'll also have a safe system of work in place, which sets out how the work will be carried out on site and how the workforce will behave.



5. Provide personal protective equipment

To protect people individually, you must provide them with reflective jackets, hard hats, gloves and ear defenders where necessary.

OK, so you now have some options for risk control and a hierarchy of risk control, but which one is going to be the 'best' one for your circumstances? No doubt you'll have various demands to balance, such as:

- how many people need to be protected? If there's a noisy machine on site, it may be better to put it in a soundproof enclosure than to buy hearing protection and expect everyone to wear it
- how reliant is the effectiveness of the risk control on human behaviour?
- how often will the risk control need to be tested, maintained and replaced?
- how much does the risk control cost?
- how much is it going to reduce the risk by? Will using the selected control introduce other risks?

Usually, the final decision is a compromise between all of these points.

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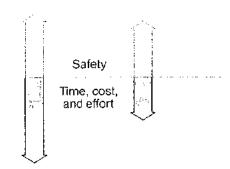
Did you know?



About 3,500 people are killed every year and 40,000 seriously injured on Britain's roads. There are 250,000 incidents and 300,000 casualties altogether. The direct costs of accidents that cause injury are estimated at about £3 billion a year. (Eves & Gummer, 2005).

Now, you may be wondering when you've done enough in terms of reducing risk. Generally, what you need to do is reduce risks 'so far as is reasonably practicable'.

This means that if the cost – in terms of time, effort, money or inconvenience – associated with the risk control outweighs the benefits of the risk reduction, then it's not reasonably practicable to use that risk control.



Let's go back to the roadworks example.

As we've already discussed, closing the road would be the first option. This is the safest measure because it eliminates the risk, but it isn't reasonably practicable, because:

- it's very expensive
- approval is needed this could be a lengthy process
- it's inconvenient to road users and may increase risk elsewhere by causing congestion on other routes.

It may also be appropriate to consider other courses of action – for example, working at nights or weekends when traffic volumes are lower. However, because this is only a two-day job, this option isn't reasonably practicable either, because:

- there are still cost implications
- you'd need to install extra local lighting
- · neighbouring residents may find the noise and the light inconvenient at night.

Because you can't eliminate or reduce the risk, your third option is to provide cones, introduce a speed limit and narrow the traffic lanes to create space between the workers and traffic. This is the most reasonably practicable option, as it minimises the risk to an acceptable level and:

- it's less expensive
- it's a simple measure.

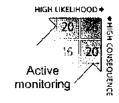
After balancing the cost in terms of time, effort, money or inconvenience the third option would be 'reasonably practicable' in these circumstances. In summary, you should use this type of analysis for all possible actions.

However, there are circumstances, particularly where risk of injury is high, where implementing controls is mandatory.

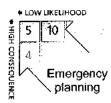


Most organisations do not know what accidents and ill-health really cost them in time and money. They are often surprised to find out what the actual costs are: accidents in construction can account for 3–6 per cent of total project costs (www.hse.gov.uk).

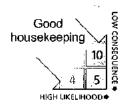
Getting it right



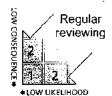
Where there are hazards with **high likelihood and high consequence**, we expect that risks will be managed and monitored proactively – for example, when a dangerous machine is consistently in use, and regularly accessed for maintenance and cleaning.



High consequence but low likelihood issues are best suited to contingency and emergency planning. An example of this issue is the potential for electrical failure in organisations relying on power for safety reasons, but with well-engineered and maintained electrical systems.



Low consequence issues with high likelihood are usually the kinds of issues which are generally well understood. Therefore we should be dealing with these already – for example, slips, trips and falls can often be managed through good housekeeping practices.



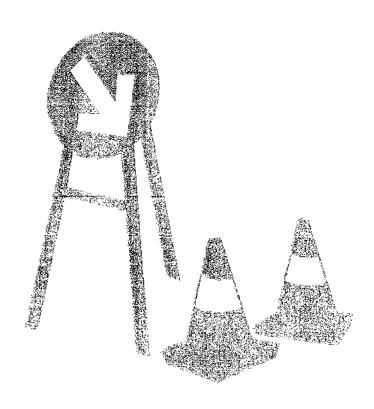
Finally – low consequence and low likelihood issues. We're probably going to monitor these issues for change, but more often than not, we're going to live with them.

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Summary

1. If you want to reduce risk you need to look at \dots

2. To decide which risk control to use, there's a hierarchy which is...



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Department:

Site name:

Description of monitoring required	Frequency:	Frequency:	Frequency:
New risk level			
Residual risk Probable X Potential New risk			
Probable (Likelihood)			
Further risk controls required			
Existing risk controls			
Work activity and risk level			

Date of next review:	Signature.
Review period:	Position
Date:	Assessor's name:

Module four



Module 4: Understanding your responsibilities

Key learning points

- 1. What does the law require you to do?
- How does the law work?
- 3. What are the key parts of a health and safety management system?

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What does the law require you to do?

OK, so you know as a manager you have health and safety responsibilities – but what should you worry about, how far should you go, what's the best way to do it, when do you stop and what's there to guide you?



The minimum you need to do is to comply with the law, as the law sets the boundaries within which companies must operate. However, from what you've seen and heard so far, you'll realise that there are many benefits to your business from managing safely. As a manager, you need to assess 'reasonably foreseeable' risks and put in place control measures to reduce the risks so far as is reasonably practicable.



Reasonable foreseeability – being responsible for everything that is foreseeable would be a burdensome task. Instead the law tries to be fair by requiring you to be responsible only for foreseeable risks. For example, if you see a trailing cable across a doorway you know that there's a high risk that someone will trip over it.

In summary, an employer must be able to demonstrate reasonable foreseeability of significant risks covered by tests 1 and 2 but they would rarely face an expectation under test 3, unless they were an expert.

Employers aren't responsible for issues they can successfully argue as 'not reasonably foreseeable', but are responsible where reasonable foreseeability can be argued.

To help you further, there are three tests you can apply:

1. Common knowledge

You're expected to foresee what the average person in the street would have foreseen, as that information is common knowledge. For example, if the public would have known that working on a roof in a gale without anything to stop a fall was dangerous, then so should the employer.



2. Industry knowledge





If a safety issue is beyond public knowledge, your company is expected to have the same level of background knowledge as other companies working in the same industry.

For example, if a company was using a chemical and didn't realise how dangerous it was, but the rest of the industry had realised for years, and had introduced control measures or had replaced it with an alternative, the employer wouldn't be able to argue against reasonable foreseeability.

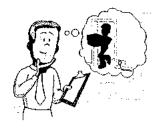
3. Expert knowledge

Only if you're an expert are you expected to have expert knowledge. For example, a research chemist would quite reasonably be expected to understand all the different properties of the substances they were handling, even if some risks were peculiar to the substance in very specific circumstances, beyond normal use.





Consider the jobs you and your team do at work that give rise to reasonably foreseeable concerns. Those are the ones you need to act on.



Reasonable practicability – we've already covered this in Module 3 but just to recap, this means that if the cost – in terms of time, effort, money or inconvenience – associated with the risk control outweighs the benefits of the risk reduction, then it's not 'reasonably practicable' to use that risk control.

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Case study - Burns v Joseph Terry & Sons Ltd (1950)

Mr Burns was a keen and enthusiastic young employee at Terry's chocolate factory. His job was to feed sacks of cocoa beans into a machine and to collect up any that fell on the ground.

He noticed that, somehow, some beans had found their way up onto a shelf. The shelf was too high to reach so he got a ladder. There was no place to rest the top of the ladder so he chose to rest it on a slowly revolving shaft. At the end of the shaft, not far from the ladder, were some cogs. These cogs were well fenced in from the front. They were not fenced on top or on the sides because it wasn't expected that anyone would get up there. There was simply no way, other than resting a ladder on the revolving shaft, that anyone could get up there.

While up the ladder clearing the beans from the shelf, Mr Burns felt the ladder start to slip on the revolving shaft. He reached out for support and took hold of one of the cogs. This pulled his hand into the mechanism and crushed it. He tried to claim damages for breach of statutory duty arising from the company's failure to 'securely fence' the dangerous parts of this transmission machinery.

It was decided that the expression 'securely fenced' means well fenced from all foreseeable risks. The test is whether a reasonable person, with the factory occupier's knowledge, would reasonably anticipate that injury could occur from incomplete fencing, or whether incomplete fencing provided security against all reasonably foreseeable risks.

In this case, there was only one way a person could have got into the difficulties which Mr Burns found himself in. That was by doing what Mr Burns did. It was entirely unforeseeable that any person would rest a ladder against a revolving shaft and get his hand around the fencing so that it was in contact with the dangerous cogs behind.

The final decision was that the employer wasn't liable and therefore Mr Burns did not win his case.

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How does the law work?

You don't need to know the detail of every regulation, but you do need to understand a little more about how the law works in relation to health and safety.

Remember the workplace accident in Module 1?



We said that if the accident had happened because of a failure to manage health and safety risks in the organisation, the regulator may take action, which in turn may lead to prosecutions, fines and imprisonment. Also, the injured worker may seek compensation for their injuries.

Essentially, there are two types of legal proceedings that could take place as a result of the accident: a criminal law case and/or a civil law action.

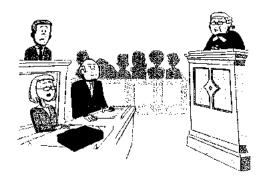
So, as a manager, you need to understand why.

Criminal law case

Employers have a legal duty under the **Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974** (**HASWA**) to manage foreseeable health and safety risks. This Act is known as a statute and is created by Parliament – in other words, it's the law of the land. As you can imagine, there are many statutes relating to a whole range of issues, not just health and safety matters.

The type of law created by statutes is referred to as criminal law. So, breaching health and safety law is a criminal offence, which can be punished through fines and/or imprisonment.

Usually, any legal action must start within six months of the accident or from when the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) or Local Authority (LA) realise the organisation has broken the law.



- All employers, directors, managers, manufacturers and employees have a duty under HASWA to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, health and safety in relation to their activities.
- Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, additional
 general requirements are placed on employers to carry out assessments of reasonably
 foreseeable risks and to implement risk controls, so far as is reasonably practicable.

• The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) require the reporting of certain types of accidents and incidents.

Other regulations set minimum requirements for a range of specific hazards – for example, chemicals and work equipment.

This type of law is proactive – it's designed to encourage prevention and avoidance – and reactive – it provides punishment for lawbreakers.

In criminal law, the case against the accused must be proved by the prosecution, in this case the State or its representative, 'beyond reasonable doubt'. This is also known as the 'burden of proof'.

Penalties for criminal offences can be fines and/or imprisonment. The severity of the penalty depends on the seriousness of the crime. These fines come out of the company's bottom line – they're not covered by insurance policies.



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Remember we said that the injured person might also bring a personal injury claim against the company. So how does that work?

Civil law action

In **civil law**, victims of harm or loss, caused by the fault or **negligence** of another party, can seek compensation for that harm.

Usually, the legal action must start within three years of the accident or when the injured person found that the injury was the fault of the employer. The amount of compensation awarded depends on the nature of the injury and its effect on the person's ability to earn a living.

This type of law is not produced by government but is developed over time by the decisions made by judges — also known as precedents. So a decision taken by a judge in one particular case will apply to all future similar cases. You can think of this type of law as 'judge-made'.

This type of law is entirely reactive – someone has to suffer harm or loss before a case can be brought to court.

In such cases, the responsibility is on the claimant (the injured party) to demonstrate that the defendant has been negligent so that the judge is more certain than not of the defendant's negligence – this level of proof is usually referred to as 'the balance of probabilities'.



For the claimant to be successful, they have to show three things:

- that the defendant owed the person a duty of care.
- that the duty of care was breached
- 3. that the injury was caused by a breach of the duty.

So in the case of our accident, the company owed the employee a duty of care not to cause them foreseeable injury. By failing to manage foreseeable safety risks, they breached the duty of care and caused the injury.

If the employee is found to have played a part in contributing towards their own injury, the claim for compensation may be reduced or even denied because of their 'contributory negligence'.

Also, the employer can be liable for the negligent actions of his employees which cause injury to others while they're in employment. This is known as **vicarious liability.**

In addition to establishing negligence, breaching some statute law gives a right to pursue a civil action.

Employers are required to take out and maintain insurance policies against liability for injury or illness sustained by their employees while in their employment.

Employers' liability insurance is compulsory for many organisations – exceptions are public organisations, health service bodies and other public funded bodies. This insurance allows businesses to meet the costs of compensation and legal fees for employees who are injured or made ill at work through the fault of the employer.

By law, an employer must be insured for at least £5 million.

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To conclude, here's a summary of both criminal and civil law:

	Criminal law	Civil law
Who does the court case focus on?	The accused – the individual or organisation who's accused of breaking the law	The injured party – the person who's suffered harm as a result of the actions of others
What is the main source of this type of law?	Statute law	Common law precedence
Who makes this kind of law?	Parliament – usually takes years to change	Judges – might change tonight
Who initiates legal proceedings?	Health and Safety Executive or Local Authority	Anyone affected
What is the most likely outcome for this case?	Fines and/or possible imprisonment	Compensation payouts
Who is responsible for proving the case (burden of proof)?	The State (subject to health and safety law)	The claimant
What is the burden of proof?	Beyond reasonable doubt	On the balance of probabilities
Normally, how soon must legal action start?	Six months for summary offences (but can be extended)	Three years from discovery of harm (but courts have discretion to extend)

-	Criminal law	Civil law
What are the main parts of the law that	Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HASWA) and	Duty of care
apply?	associated regulations	Negligence
		Breach of statutory duty

Did you know ...?



In late August 2005, Transco plc was fined a total of £15 million due to failure to keep accurate records of its pipelines, which led to a fatal explosion. The company was also found guilty of failing to ensure that members of the public were not exposed to risks to their health and safety.

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Help with interpreting and applying the law comes in the form of:

- approved codes of practice
- guidance documents
- industry-specific guidance.

So now you know that you have to manage foreseeable risks to the extent that is reasonably practicable. You also have an insight into how things might pan out if there were a serious accident.

There doesn't have to be an accident for an inspector to take action! If an inspector has concerns about your activities and believes you've broken the law, they can take action by issuing an improvement notice or prohibition notice.

- An improvement notice gives you a time limit in which to resolve the problem.
- A prohibition notice means that you must stop an activity that's considered to present a risk of serious personal injury.

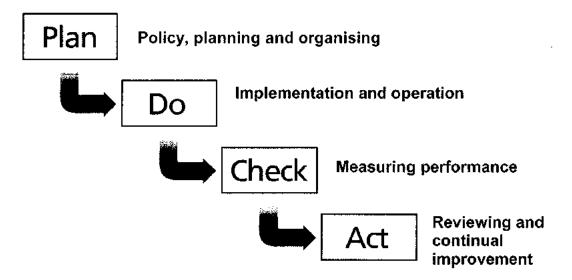
Now we need to look at the best way of managing foreseeable risks. The ideal way to do this is to incorporate health and safety into everything you do by planning, doing what you plan, checking that this was OK and, if not, acting accordingly and planning again. This process is central to good business management, not just health and safety.

We'll now consider the key elements in a health and safety management system.

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What are the key parts of a health and safety management system?

Most health and safety management systems are based around the principle of plan, do, check and act.



The key benefits for you and your organisation of introducing a health and safety management system (HSMS) are:

- · complying with legislative and other requirements
- · helping you to deliver the policy
- enabling improved management of health and safety risks
- · providing competitive edge
- providing synergy with good business management.

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Effective health and safety management systems include the following elements:

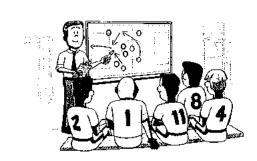
Policy



Say what you're going to do – a statement of commitment by the organisation's senior management to comply with health and safety law and meet ethical and professional responsibilities for health and safety. If you employ five or more people it is a legal requirement to have a written health and safety policy.

Planning

Plan how you're going to do it – a plan for hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control, being prepared for emergencies and response, together with identification of the relevant legal and other standards that might apply to your organisation.



Organising

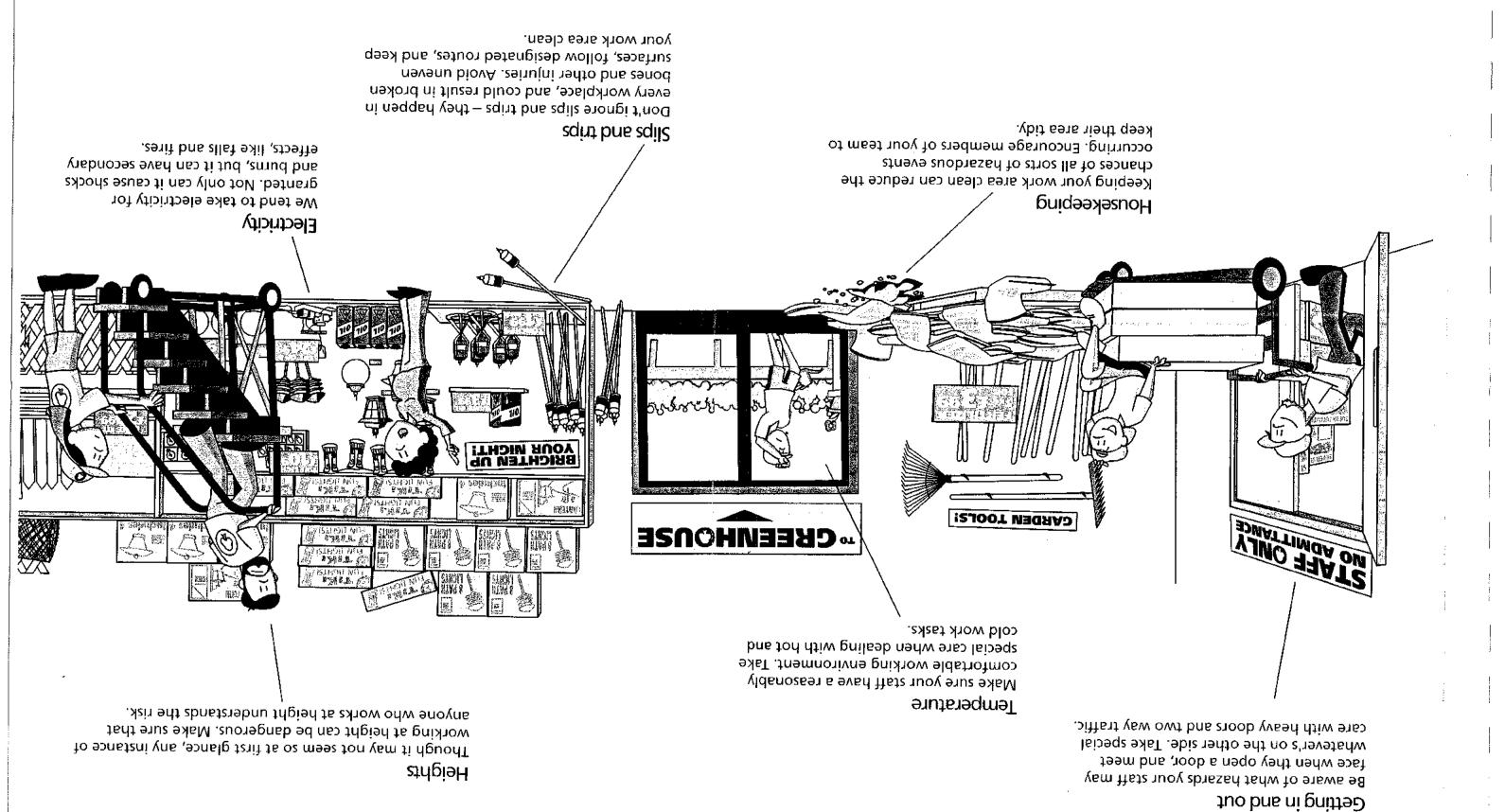


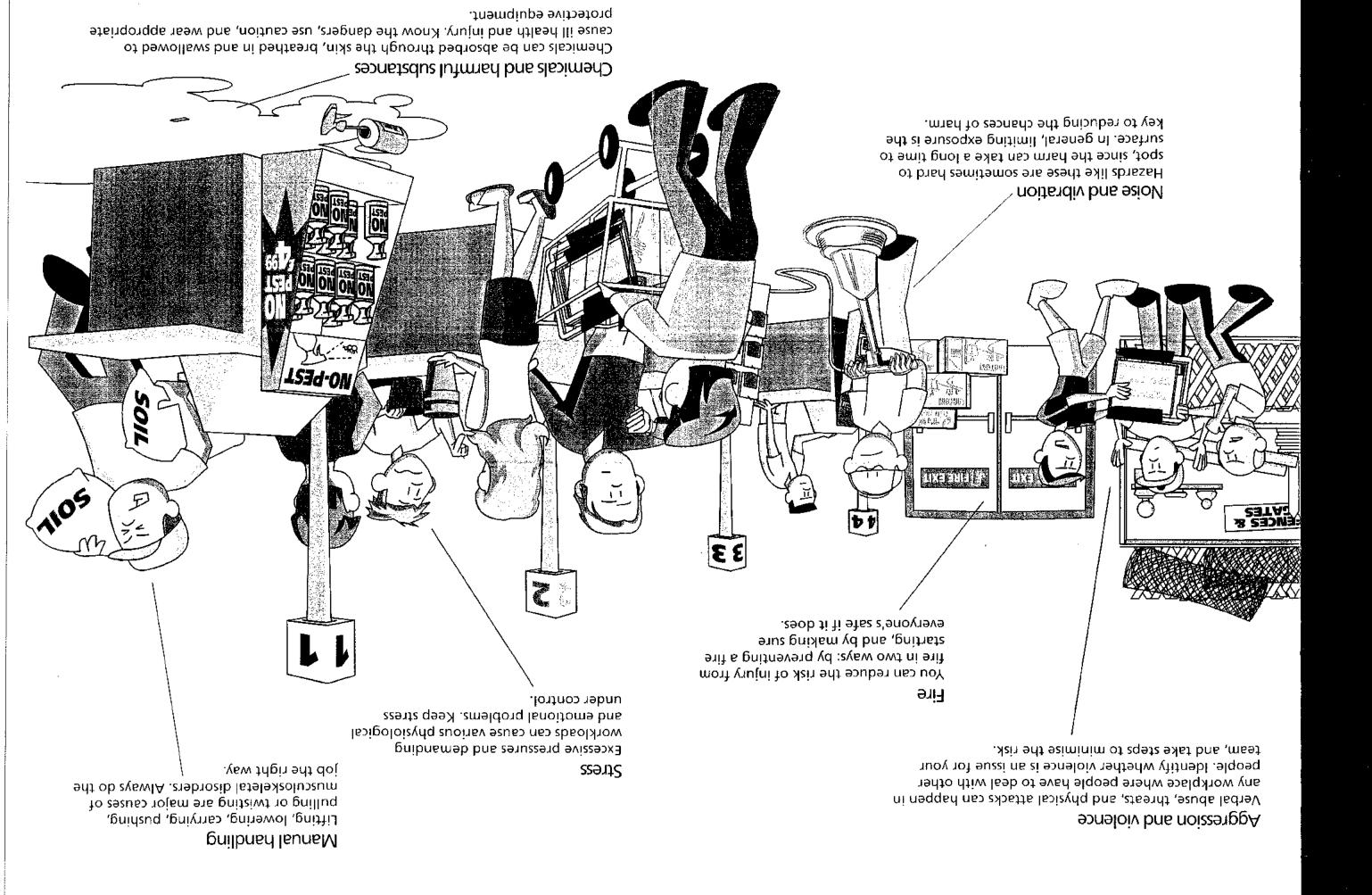
Get the people in place – a definition of who's responsible for what in terms of health and safety and how to make sure that everyone's capable of fulfilling their responsibilities. You also need to consult on health and safety matters – there's a fund of knowledge and expertise within the workforce, clients, suppliers and other stakeholders that can help you. And remember communication – from basic information and work procedures to how the system works – is vital.

Implementing and operating

Doing it – the process of putting in place the plans and getting involved in all the necessary activities, from risk assessment, through safe systems of work, to audit.







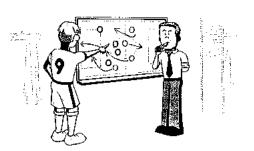
Measuring performance



Find out how well you're doing – from reactive data (for example, on injuries and ill health) to active data (such as on inspections and training). This will give you an indication of whether your actions are working. Audits will help you judge whether the whole system is working. You'll need to make adjustments as necessary.

Review and continual improvement

Overall, does the system work and how can we make it better? – an evaluation of the overall design and resourcing of the system compared with the performance achieved. It shows a commitment to manage health and safety risks proactively so that accidents and ill health are reduced and/or the system achieves its goals using fewer resources.



A number of health and safety management systems have been published, but all reflect the plan-do-check-act cycle.



Find out what health and safety management system is in use in your organisation.

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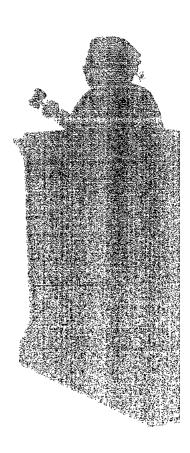
Getting it right

- You need to appreciate the key concepts and enforcement procedures, so you
 understand when to act, when not to act and when you might need help on health and
 safety matters.
- You need to assess reasonably foreseeable risks and put in place control measures that reduce risks down to the lowest reasonably practicable level.
- To be successful, the health and safety management system has to match your organisation's needs and its management approach. You'll probably find that all systems need to be adapted to the specific needs and culture of the organisation in order for it to be sustainable.
- It's vital to get everyone involved to make health and safety management a success.

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Summary

- 1. The law requires you to assess 'reasonably foreseeable' risks. The three tests you can apply are...
- 2. The law consists of two distinct pathways...
- 3. The six key parts to a safety management system are...



Glossary of terms

Burden of proof is an obligation to prove what is alleged.

Civil law is the section of the law that deals with disputes between individuals or organisations.

Criminal law is the section of the law that punishes criminals for committing offences against the State.

Duty of care is the legal requirement that employers must do everything reasonably practicable to protect others from harm.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reports to the Health and Safety Commission and is the British government body responsible for regulating risks to health and safety in the UK.

Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HASWA) places duties on employers, directors, managers, manufacturers and employees to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, good health and safety in relation to their activities.

Local Authority (usually through Environmental Health Officers (EHOs)) aims to protect people from environmental health hazards in their living and working surroundings. They enforce legislation such as the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, the Food Safety Act 1990 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990. They also advise householders, shopkeepers, business owners, managers and workers in industry.

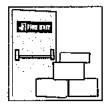
Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 place additional general requirements on employers to carry out risk assessments of reasonably foreseeable risks and to implement risk controls so far as is reasonably practicable.

Precedent is a type of law not produced by government but is developed over time by the decision made by judges. So a decision taken by a judge in one particular case will apply to all future similar cases.

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) require the reporting of certain types of accidents and incidents.

Statutory law consists of laws that have been made by Acts of Parliament. Governments may introduce a bill to update existing laws or develop new ones to respond to changes in society. A bill is debated in Parliament and, once passed, is drafted into law.

Module five



Module 5: Identifying hazards

Key learning points

- 1. What are common hazards?
- 2. What can you do about common hazards?

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What are common hazards?

Common hazards exist in every workplace. You need to be able to recognise them and know what to do about them.

What can you do about common hazards?

You're about to watch a short animation. As you watch it you'll identify several common hazards.

During this session, you'll also find out what you can do about them - enjoy yourself!

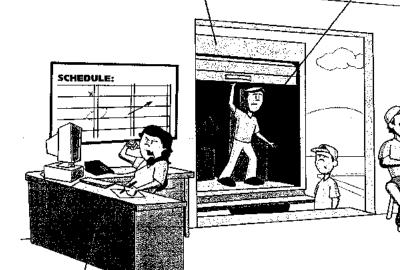
Common hazards

Vehicles and transport

When people and vehicles operate together, there's the potential for serious accidents. Always use caution, and separate people and vehicles where possible.

Lighting

Poor quality lighting, whether it be too bright or too dark, can lead to a number of other hazards.



Computer workstations

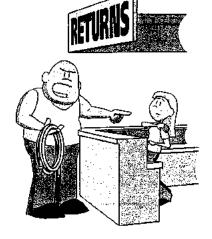
Eye strain, back injuries and upper limb disorders can occur after extended periods of computer use. Keep an eye on posture and make sure staff have adequate breaks.

Bullying

Bullying can occur in many forms — blocking promotions, criticism of competent staff, or making the same person the butt of jokes.

Aggression and violence

Work-related violence occurs when someone is abused, threatened or assaulted in circumstances relating to their work. Violence (which includes verbal abuse, threats or physical attacks) can come from people you know, as well as from strangers.



Your risk of being exposed to violence depends a lot on your occupation. If your work brings you into contact with the public, you're at a higher risk of attack, especially if you:

- handle money security and protective services
- work with violent people prison officers
- deal with complaints receptionists
- have the power to act against the public police
- provide care, advice or information nurses and care workers
- · work alone bus drivers, ticket collectors
- work unsociable hours catering staff.

As well as occupation, the circumstances and situations of your work affect your chances of suffering aggression and violence. Working alone, for example, increases your vulnerability.

Physical attacks and verbal abuse

Physical attacks are dangerous, but serious or persistent verbal abuse can be a significant problem too, as it can damage an employee's health through anxiety and stress.

Verbal abuse is more common than physical attacks and can cause **psychological symptoms** that can lead to physical symptoms.

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Psychological symptoms can include:

- insomnia
- stress
- anxiety
- irritability

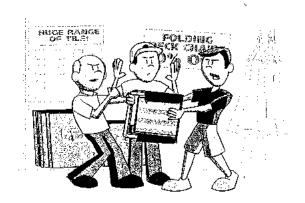
- loss of confidence
- agoraphobia
- · thoughts of self-harm
- guilt.

As a manager, you'll need to identify whether aggression and violence are problems for you and your team. Minimise the risks of violence to you and your staff by:

- providing training and information to help employees identify the early signs of aggression and avoid it or deal with it
- improving public waiting areas, information about delays and physical security measures, such as video cameras, alarm systems and security doors
- introducing changes to the way your team works such as limiting the amount of cash
 on the premises by using cheques, credit cards and tokens, banking money more
 frequently, checking client credentials for meetings away from the workplace,
 accompanying workers if they have to meet a known aggressor away from the
 workplace, making sure that employees keep in touch when they're working away from
 base
- setting up a system for reporting, investigating and monitoring any instances of violence, so that you can make more improvements if appropriate. The reporting system needs to be easily accessible for example, an answerphone service.

Encourage members of your team to:

- raise any concerns about the risk of violence
- discuss workplace precautions with you
- report any attack, however minor, to you.
 This should include an account of what happened, details of the victim, perpetrator and any witnesses, the outcome and details of the location and nature of the incident.



Did you know...?



The British Crime Survey 2004/05 estimated there were 655,000 incidents of violence or threats at work (www.homeoffice.gov.uk).

Bullying

If a worker feels they're being singled out for unfair treatment by a boss or colleague, they're probably being bullied. There's no comprehensive list of bullying behaviours and no one type of person who's likely to be a bully.

Examples of bullying behaviour include:

- constantly criticising competent staff, removing responsibilities from them, or giving them trivial tasks
- shouting at staff
- persistently picking on people in front of others or in private
- blocking promotion
- regularly and deliberately ignoring or excluding individuals from work activities
- setting a person up to fail by overloading them with work or setting impossible deadlines
- consistently attacking a member of staff in terms of their professional or personal standing
- regularly making the same person the butt of jokes.



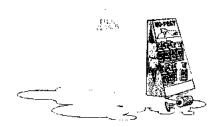
Symptoms of bullying include:

- anxiety
- headaches
- nausea
- ulcers
- sleeplessness
- skin rashes
- irritable bowel syndrome
- high blood pressure
- tearfulness
- loss of self-confidence.

As a manager, make it clear to your team members that you find bullying behaviour unacceptable. Encourage them to talk to you if they feel they're at risk of being bullied or are being bullied.

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Chemicals and harmful substances



Chemicals and harmful substances can cause you injury or ill health. They can be found in the home and at work – examples include adhesives, paints, cleaning agents, fumes from soldering and welding, grain dust and bacteria.

These warning signs are used to identify different types of harmful substances:



Dangerous to the environment



Explosive



(Very) toxic



Corrosive



Irritant or harmful



Highly or extremely flammable



Oxidising



Biohazard

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How can you be exposed to chemicals?

Chemicals can come into contact with your bare skin and eyes

Some substances, such as fuels and oils, can pass through the skin, while others get into the body via cuts and grazes. This is known as *absorption*.

Chemicals can also get into the body by deliberate or accidental puncture of the skin – for example through contaminated syringes. This is known as *injection*.

You can breathe in chemicals

Breathing in harmful gases and dusts, such as asbestos, means they can stay in the lungs and cause a variety of diseases, such as asbestosis. This is known as *inhalation*.

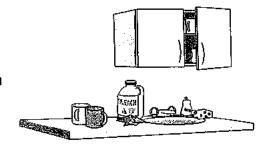
You can swallow chemicals

This happens most often through swallowing contaminated food or drink. This is known as ingestion.

Some substances have a Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL). This defines an exposure level that mustn't be exceeded. Information on the WEL for a particular substance can be found on the safety datasheet that accompanies all harmful substances. But not exceeding the WEL doesn't guarantee health protection – individual differences in human susceptibility make that impossible.

Remember:

- some substances are more harmful than others
- some will harm you quickly
- some require large doses before they cause harm
- some may take years of exposure before any effects are seen.



Did you know ...?



An estimated average of 3,200 new cases of work-related skin disease were diagnosed each year between 2003 and 2005 by specialist physicians. Around 75 per cent of these were contact dermatitis (www.hse.gov.uk).

As a manager, you'll need to make sure that risks from harmful substances in the areas you're responsible for are managed effectively. To do this you'll need to:

- set up processes and activities to minimise the release and spread of harmful substances
- take note of all the ways in which people can be exposed when designing control
 measures
- control exposure in ways that are appropriate for the level of risk to health
- choose the most effective and reliable control measures. For example, consider the
 following: replacing the substance with a safer alternative; using the substance in a
 safer form; using the smallest amount possible; enclosure and ventilation; and using
 appropriate work methods
- provide personal protective equipment where you can't control exposure any other way, and make sure it's used
- check your measures are working well
- inform and train all workers about the hazards and risks from the substances they work with and what they should do if they're exposed
- make sure your controls don't increase other health and safety risks.

Encourage your team members to:

- always use gloves, goggles and other protective equipment to prevent contact with harmful substances
- always use the correct mask or breathing apparatus to prevent them breathing in chemicals, and to make sure that it's clean and undamaged and that it fits properly
- avoid eating or drinking in workplaces where hazardous chemicals or substances are being used
- always take personal hygiene precautions (such as washing your hands and changing your clothing) before eating, drinking or smoking.

Did you know...?



On average, 571 new cases of occupational asthma were reported each year between 2003 and 2005. Put another way, there are two cases per 100,000 workers per year (www.hse.gov.uk).

Computer workstations

The main injuries associated with workstations occur after working with them for long periods. They are:



- upper limb disorders (ULDs) -- these include repetitive strain injury and usually occur after using a keyboard or mouse
- back injuries from sitting with an awkward posture
- eye strain from looking at the screen

As a manager, there are several simple practical steps that you can take to prevent these injuries to your team members.

Make sure that your team members:

- adopt the right posture when working at their computer workstations for example, not holding their wrists at an acute angle
- take frequent short breaks if they're using a keyboard for a long time
- are aware of the early symptoms of ULDs such as tingling in the fingers after keyboard use – and report their symptoms to you
- use an adjustable chair that's set up properly for them
- know how to set up an adjustable chair to meet their needs
- position the screen properly so that there's no glare or reflection, it's at eye height, and it's neither too far away nor too near
- wear glasses or lenses if they need them to see the screen clearly they should wear them all the time they're using the screen
- have their eyes tested regularly your organisation must pay for this if they have to use screens for most of their work.

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Electricity

The main type of harm from electricity is electric shock, caused by coming into direct contact with an electrical conductor, such as the bare wires of an appliance while it's live. You can also be injured as a consequence of an electric shock: for example, if you get a shock while changing a light bulb, you could fall off your ladder. Electricity can also cause electrical burns and fire.

Most deaths and injuries from electricity are due to:

- · using poorly maintained electrical equipment
- · working near overhead power lines
- contact with underground power cables during excavation work
- working on or near domestic electricity supplies
- use of unsuitable electrical equipment in explosive atmospheres, such as in car paint spraying booths.



Most of these could have been avoided by careful planning and relatively straightforward precautions.

Did you know ...?

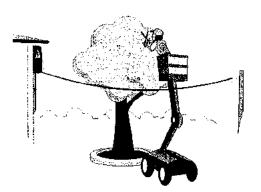


About five people are killed each year in accidents involving overhead power lines in agricultural work (www.hse.gov.uk).

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As a manager, you'll need to assess what kind of electrical work your team's involved in. Your team may be:

- working near electricity for example, near overhead power lines or underground cables
- using electrical equipment for example, power tools
- working on electrical equipment, machinery or installations – for example, carrying out maintenance or repair work.



Whatever the work, you need to make sure that the risks are assessed, workers are given appropriate training, and adequate controls are provided so that they can work without putting themselves and others in danger.

Did you know ...?

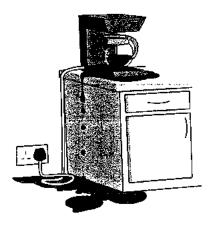


Each year, there are around 1,000 electrical accidents at work and about 30 people die of their injuries (www.hse.gov.uk).

Working near electricity

Make sure your team members are trained to:

- recognise electrical wiring sometimes it isn't obvious
- request and use an up-to-date map of gas, water and electricity services in the area
- find and mark underground services
- ask for electrical power supplies to be turned off
- ask for and follow the advice of a competent person.



Using electrically powered equipment

Develop a procedure to make sure that:

- electrical equipment is suitable for its intended use, and it's in good condition
- electrical equipment is suitable for the electrical supply
- a circuit breaker is used between the equipment and electrical supply
- workers are trained to use the equipment safely.

Working on electrical equipment, machinery or installation

Make sure that this type of work:

- is thoroughly planned
- is carried out by competent people only
- meets the requirements of relevant national or industrial standards.

Case study

An electrical contractor received a fatal electric shock while examining a faulty air conditioning unit at premises owned and controlled by a local council. The investigation found that the council had failed to maintain the unit in a safe condition, even though it had known about its condition for some time. Also, this was the second electrocution on the council's premises in five years.

The council was prosecuted under the Health and Safety At Work etc Act 1974 and fined £400,000.

People in control of work activities have a responsibility to maintain equipment in a safe condition. They should also provide whatever information and instruction that's necessary to ensure that workers can work safely.

(www.hse.gov.uk/electricity/experience.htm)

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#### Fire

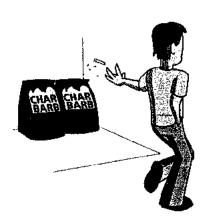
Fires happen when three things are present:

- oxygen
- fuel
- heat

When oxygen mixes with fuel, and there's a spark or other source of ignition, a fire will start.

Sources of fuel: flammable liquids (such as paint, varnish, adhesives, solvents and petrol), wood, paper, card, plastics, rubber, foam, flammable gases and dusts such as coal, sugar and grain.

Sources of heat: naked flames, cigarettes and matches, heaters, hot processes (grinding, cooking), lighting equipment and friction.



Sources of oxygen: air in the atmosphere, oxidising materials (eg bleaches) and oxygen stored in cylinders.

Removing any one of these components will prevent or put out a fire.

Fires injure and kill people through:

- · heat and flames
- · smoke, which can suffocate or poison them
- collapse of buildings.

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Once a fire's started, the best way to reduce injury or death is to get people away from it and out of reach of the smoke. However, the best approach is to prevent fires starting in the first place. A fire will only go out when there's no oxygen, the fuel runs out or the heat is removed by cooling with water or another firefighting measure.

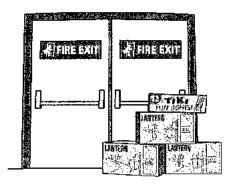
# Did you know ...?



In 2004, there were approximately 30,000 fires recorded in workplace premises (www.communities.gov.uk).

As a manager, you'll need to make sure that fire risks in the areas you're responsible for are managed effectively. To do this, you'll need to identify:

- · ways to eliminate or reduce sources of:
  - ignition for example, buy and install equipment that's been designed to minimise the risk of fire
  - fuel for example, remove flammable materials or keep them to the minimum amounts you need for the work
  - oxygen for example, shut doors and windows
- how much training your staff have had in fire safety
- what fire precautions are in place, such as smoke detectors, fire alarms, escape routes and firefighting equipment.



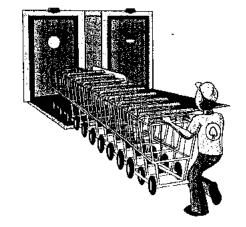
You need to have an effective way to detect fires and recover from them if they do start. In particular you need to set up:

- a system for alerting everyone to a fire and evacuating the premises
- regular fire practices to test the emergency systems before a real fire occurs
- adequate firefighting equipment so that trained employees can put out a fire at its early stages without exposing themselves to danger.

# Getting in and getting out

Getting in and out of buildings and work sites is so commonplace we don't give it a second thought. But we should – many people get injured doing exactly that!

Before going into an area, we all need to be aware of what hazards we may face both at the opening itself and on the other side.



As a manager, think about the areas you're responsible for and ask yourself these questions:

- are entrances and exits for employees, visitors and vehicles identified?
- are they well lit, maintained and staffed, if necessary?
- are they suitable for their users?
- · are they safe under foot?
- have you thought about emergency situations, when entrance and exit routes might change?

You can help to keep entrances and exits in good condition by including them in routine inspections.

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#### Safety signs

Safety signs play an important part in communicating health and safety information to everyone. Signs need to be provided whenever there's a hazard that hasn't been fully controlled in other ways. Make sure your team understands the meaning of the signs.



Red signs – these are prohibition signs. This means you're not allowed to do something (like smoking, as illustrated). Other common prohibition signs are those showing that there's no access for pedestrians or no access for vehicles. Red signs are also used for firefighting equipment.

Blue signs – these are mandatory signs. This means that you must do something (like wearing ear defenders, as illustrated). Other common mandatory signs are 'head protection must be worn' and 'face protection must be worn'.





**Yellow or amber signs** – these used to warn about hazards like forklift trucks (as illustrated), electricity, radioactive material and biological risks.

**Green signs** – these signs are for emergency escape routes (as illustrated) and first aid provisions, such as first aid posts and emergency showers.



# Heights



Falls from height are the most common cause of fatal injury and the second most common cause of major injuries to employees.

The main causes of falls from height are:

- failing to recognise the risk
- not providing a safe system of work and making sure it's followed
- not providing adequate information, training, instruction or supervision
- not using equipment properly or sometimes not using it at all.

#### Case study

An employee of a wood panel manufacturer suffered severe back injuries when he fell 11.5m through a hole in the factory roof. He was on the roof to collect wood debris and throw it down a chute. To gain access to the chute, he had to walk along a cordoned-off area where there were two holes in the roof to allow the installation of a new extractor unit. One of these holes had been left open, the other covered by an insulating board. During one trip through the cordoned-off area, he stood on the hole covered by insulating board; it broke under his weight and he fell. His employer was fined £12,000 for breaches of health and safety legislation.

#### Did you know ...?



In 2004/05, 53 people died and nearly 3,800 suffered a serious injury because of falls from height in the workplace (www.hse.gov.uk).

If the work you're responsible for includes working at height, you need to make sure that:

- it's properly planned and organised
- the workers are competent
- you've assessed the risks from working at height, chosen appropriate work equipment and made sure your staff use it
- you've controlled the risks from fragile surfaces
- equipment for working at height is properly inspected and maintained.

Avoid working at height wherever possible. If you can't avoid it:

- use work equipment or other measures to prevent falls
- use work equipment or other measures to minimise the distance and consequences
  of a fall.

# Did you know ...?



On average 13 people a year die at work falling from ladders and nearly 1,200 suffer major injuries. More than a quarter of falls happen from ladders (www.hse.gov.uk).

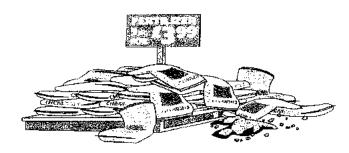
# Case study

A window cleaner broke his arm, ribs and fingers when he fell 2.3 metres from his ladder while cleaning the windows of a show home on a new housing estate. The ladder wasn't secured or footed, and the ground was dry but sloped gently away from the building. The construction company hadn't produced a method statement and the injured man had received no health and safety induction when he arrived on the site.

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# Housekeeping

Poor housekeeping can result in dirty, untidy, overcrowded and obstructed workplaces. This often leads to a variety of hazardous situations.



Poor housekeeping creates hazards for everyone. For example, if you don't clean up spillages and tidy away tools after use, there'll be a slip and trip hazard. Poor storage of materials may also present a fire hazard, not only because of the nature of the materials, but also because they block the route to a fire exit.

Encourage members of your team to tidy up after themselves and to report any problems with housekeeping to you. Regular housekeeping inspections will help to keep on top of this common but often overlooked hazard.

#### Welfare facilities

Employers must provide a number of facilities to ensure the welfare and comfort of their workforce:

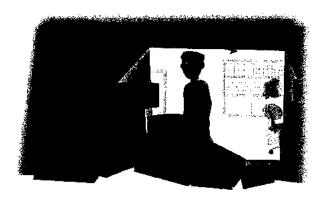
- toilets and washing facilities
- drinking water
- storage for clothing and changing areas, if appropriate
- rest and eating areas
- · showers, depending on the type of work.

In addition, toilets and washing facilities must be kept clean, ventilated and well lit. Including these areas in regular inspections will help to make sure they stay in a good condition. Encourage your team members to use these facilities.

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# Lighting

Good lighting can help us recognise hazards in the workplace. In addition, it can reduce the likelihood of pain and tiredness of the eyes, which is important for many work activities. Natural light is the best form of lighting and should be provided wherever reasonably practicable.



The key safety issues with lighting in the workplace are:

- · too little or too much light
- glare and reflections areas where the light is too bright or where reflections cause problems can lead to misperceptions and often mistakes
- shadows in safety-critical places, such as across an entrance or near steps
- significant differences in lighting levels between different areas (for example, where
  you can't see the traffic when you walk outside on a bright day from a dimly lit room)
- providing extra lighting to do the job safely people are more productive when they
  can see properly.

Remember to consider these issues when carrying out risk assessments. Encourage your team members to discuss their concerns about workplace lighting with you.

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# Manual handling

Manual handling covers a number of activities, such as lifting, lowering, carrying, pushing and pulling. These activities are a major cause of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) – such as lower back pain, joint injuries and repetitive strain injuries. Manual handling

injuries are the single most common cause of workplace injury and occur across a range of industries, from construction to office work.



#### Did you know ...?



Musculoskeletal disorders are the most common cause of occupational illness in the UK, affecting 1.1 million people a year (www.hse.gov.uk).

# The following factors affect the risk of injury from manual handling:

- the weight of the load generally, the heavier the load, the higher the risk of back injury from moving it
- the size and shape of the load loads which are small and easy to grasp are generally less of a risk than large, awkwardly shaped loads
- your posture during manual handling if you have to lift or move something
  while you're in an awkward posture, or while seated, the risks of injury are greater
- the distance you have to lift the load the higher, lower or further you have to reach to pick up or put down the load, the higher the risk
- how you move while handling something if you have to twist your body or reach over during manual handling, the risk of injury is higher
- how often you have to lift or move something carrying out a manual handling operation more than 30 times per hour increases the risk of injury
- the working environment anything which makes the manual handling more difficult increases the risk of injury, such as uneven floors or carrying loads from one level to another
- the capability of the person people differ in physical strength, height and reach.

As a manager, there are four main things you should consider when assessing the risks of manual handling:

Task – look at the job you're doing. Could manual handling aspects of the job increase the risk of injury – for example, twisting or reaching while lifting? What needs to change to improve this factor?

Individual – what is it about the person that makes this job more or less safe? Could some personal characteristics increase the risk of an injury – for example, has the person had training, or do they have any history of back problems? What needs to change to improve this factor?

Load – look at the load itself. Could the weight, size and shape of the load increase the risk of injury – for example, is it hard to grip? What needs to change to improve this factor?

Environment – look at the surroundings where the handling job is to take place. Could the environment increase the risk of injury – for example, are there objects in the way or uneven surfaces? What needs to change to improve this factor?

# Did you know ...?



An estimated 11.8 million working days a year are lost to work-related MSDs (www.hse.gov.uk).

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#### Noise

There are two main causes of hearing damage:

 the long-term, cumulative effect of exposure to loud noise. This isn't about simply being in a room where there are loud noises (for example, from noisy machinery or music) but is about a slow effect that will build up over time and is irreversible



2. Exposure to one-off loud bangs or extreme noise that may cause permanent deterioration in your hearing or may even deafen you. For example, quarry workers, mine workers and the military can be at risk from exposure to sudden blasts.

Distraction and stress from unwanted noise, particularly where the work needs attention to detail, can also reduce workers' performance.

As a rough rule of thumb, if the general noise is so loud that you can't reasonably hear a normal conversation at a distance of 2 metres, then you probably need to take action.

As a manager, you'll need to identify how bad the problem is. To do this you'll need to have noise measurements done – this will give you a noise map showing where the problem areas are. You'll need to engage a competent person to do this survey. In addition to the loudness of the noise, you'll need to take into account the length of time people work in the area. A quieter noise for a long period could be just as damaging as a louder noise for a short period.

Depending on the levels of noise, you'll need to implement certain control measures – for example, systems of work that limit exposure time, and providing quiet areas for breaks, soundproofed enclosures, quieter machinery and hearing protection. If members of your team are routinely exposed to more than a certain level of noise (the action level), you'll need to consider introducing a health surveillance programme.

# Did you know ...?



Over 1 million employees in Great Britain are exposed to levels of noise which put their hearing at risk (www.hse.gov.uk).

### Encourage your team members to:

- work with you to tackle noise problems
- check their noise exposure away from work noisy hobbies can damage hearing as much as noisy work
- wear ear plugs or defenders when doing noisy work and make sure that:
  - they fit properly
  - they're appropriate for the type of noise they're exposed to
  - they're clean and undamaged.

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# Slips and trips

Slips and trips are the most common cause of major injuries at work. They occur in almost all workplaces and 95 per cent of major slips result in broken bones. They can also be the initial cause of a range of other types of accident, such as falls from height.

One of the least understood but most significant causes of slips in the workplace isn't the obvious wet or greasy floor — it's moving from one kind of surface to another. We aren't too good at adjusting when moving from a relatively non-slip surface to a more slippery one or vice versa. As a result, we slip or trip over and fall, often hurting ourselves in the process.



Other causes are much more obvious – a wet, greasy or icy floor, inappropriate footwear, carrying something large or heavy that reduces our concentration, not preparing a safe route first, poor lighting or shadows or areas of gloom.

To tackle the risk of slips and trips in your organisation:

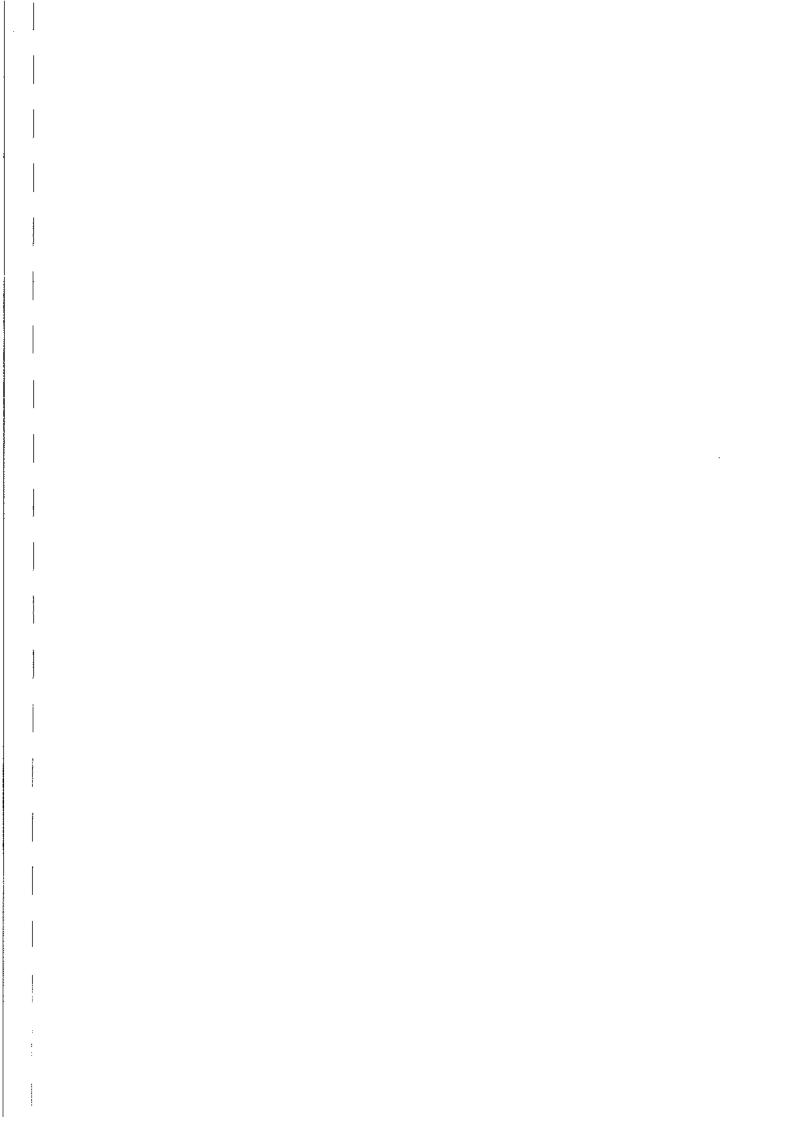
- · take slips and trips seriously
- understand and recognise their causes
- think that they're preventable
- use controls to minimise the risk.

When doing a risk assessment of your work activities, look out for slip and trip hazards – for example, uneven floors, trailing cables, areas that are sometimes slippery due to spillages. Also, take account of older workers and people with disabilities, who may be at particular risk.

#### Did you know...?



Slip and trip injuries cost employers £512 million per year (www.hse.gov.uk).



#### Stress

Stress is an individual's reaction to excessive pressure and other demands placed on them. Pressure can keep you motivated, but too much causes stress. Non-work factors can also contribute to your levels of stress. This will affect your ability to 'bounce back' and could leave you more vulnerable to work-related stress.



# Work factors that create stress can include:

- excessive work demands
- not enough work
- fear of failure
- bullying
- poor job design.

#### Non-work factors that create stress can include:

- family life
- · financial worries
- divorce
- · birth of a child
- bereavement.

#### Managers should be aware of the effects of stress:

- physiological effects: increased blood pressure, tiredness, stomach ulcers, digestive
  disorders, weight loss or gain, headaches, general malaise such as skin rashes,
  increased perspiration, aching neck and shoulder muscles, blurred vision, dizziness
  and lowered responses to infection
- emotional effects: increased tension, anxiety, depression, frustration and loss of selfesteem
- behavioural effects: anorexia, binge eating, misuse of alcohol or other drugs, interpersonal difficulties, insomnia, aggressive or passive behaviour, workplace conflict and absenteeism.

To manage stress effectively, you need to address six key areas of work design:

- demands what are the workload, work patterns, and the work environment?
- control how much say does the individual have in the way they do their work?
- **support** are encouragement, sponsorship and resources provided by the organisation, line management and colleagues?
- relationship do you have positive ways to avoid conflict and deal with unacceptable behaviour?
- **role** do people understand their role within the organisation and does the organisation ensure that people don't have conflicting roles?
- **change** how is organisational change (large or small) managed and communicated in the organisation?

Find out how your organisation is performing in these six areas and compare it with what's recognised as good practice. This will help you to identify potential problem areas and sources of stress.

#### Did you know...?



Estimates from the Self-reported Work-related Illness Survey 2004/05 indicate that self-reported work-related stress, depression or anxiety account for an estimated 12.8 million reported lost working days per year in Britain (www.hse.gov.uk).

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#### Case study

Following a risk assessment, a large high street bank identified a lack of clarity in employees' roles. This happened because employees were working to targets with penalties for not meeting them; there were time limits on calls, but employees needed to deal with calls in a thorough, helpful, way, so assuring quality often meant compromising quantity; and there wasn't enough support available for staff after difficult and time-consuming situations (for example, after dealing with a hostile customer).

The bank considered that conflicting roles were contributing to its high levels of staff turnover. It decided to apply the following solutions after discussion with staff:

- targets the bank withdrew the guidance on how long employees should spend on calls. This gave employees the discretion to spend more time dealing with contacts, which helped to reduce the pressure of difficult calls and allowed them to provide a better service
- rest rooms the bank provided rooms where employees could leave the office environment and compose themselves after tackling a particularly difficult call.
   When staff used this facility, their line manager was told, so that support could be offered to the employee if needed.

Staff and management report that the relaxation of rules has helped to clarify their roles and reduce the demands placed on employees. The introduction of rest rooms has contributed to greater job satisfaction and staff retention. Finally, the actions have been good for business, as a result of improved customer service.

www.hse.gov.uk/stress/experience.html

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#### Temperature

Temperature in workrooms should give reasonable comfort without the need for special clothing. Where this is impractical because of hot or cold processes, all reasonable steps should be taken to keep the temperature as close as possible to 'comfortable'.



Generally, the temperature in workrooms should be at least 16 degrees Celsius. If the work involves physical activity, the temperature should be at least 13 degrees.

As a manager, encourage your team members to discuss any concerns about the temperature in their work environment with you. Take temperature into account when allocating work and when carrying out risk assessments.

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#### Vehicles and transport safety

When people and vehicles operate together, there is the potential for serious accidents.

Most transport-related accidents involve people being injured as a result of:

- being hit or run over by moving vehicles
- · being struck by objects falling from vehicles
- falling from vehicles while loading or unloading
- vehicles overturning.

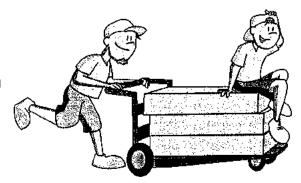
The only truly effective solution is to keep vehicles and pedestrians entirely separate and make sure that they can't operate in the same space at the same time. This can be done by physically separating them with barriers, or by timetabling vehicle and pedestrian work at different times.

If people do work where there are vehicles, then physical separation by barriers is better than having marked walkways – and well-marked walkways are far better then letting people choose for themselves! In all cases, you can reduce the risk of collision by putting up signs and warnings in appropriate places, and training people to take notice of them. It's no good having a line to mark a walkway if people don't know which side of the line means 'safe'.

If you and your team work in an office environment, don't think this isn't about you. Lots of people get injured in car parks or on approaches to office buildings because they're often off public roads and think they're safe – they're not!

There are particular problems with reversing vehicles, especially if the driver has a restricted view of the back of the vehicle. To reduce the risk of injury:

- minimise the need for vehicles to reverse for example, by setting up one-way systems
- get someone to watch the vehicle reversing
- make everyone aware of the dangers of reversing vehicles.



As a manager, you'll need to make sure that vehicle risks in the areas you're responsible for are managed effectively. Ask yourself the following questions:

- what vehicles are operating and what are they doing? In particular consider:
  - reversing
  - loading/unloading
  - tipping
  - cleaning
  - maintenance and repair
  - stability
  - other hazards
- are the drivers trained and experienced on the vehicles they operate? For example, do
  they respect speed limits, one-way systems and pedestrian areas? Do they follow safe
  practices in loading and unloading areas and when refuelling and recharging their
  vehicles?
- are pedestrians aware of how they need to behave to stay safe in the area? For
  example, do they keep clear of areas designated for vehicles, use pedestrian routes
  when available and treat site traffic with the same respect as highway traffic?
- what safe working practices are in place?

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#### Case study

A machine part manufacturer operating from an old office complex took over a relatively new warehouse with loading bays next door. Trucks reversed from the main road down to bays. Workers often walked across this loading bay area from the warehouse to the main offices opposite.

At 7.45am on a rainy February morning a warehouse worker walked across the loading bay to visit the personnel office. He waved to the driver of the truck reversing into the loading bay. He thought the driver had seen him, so carried on, but the truck continued to reverse, knocking him down.

The warehouse worker was crushed by the truck and died later in hospital. The company was found not to have followed health and safety guidelines and was fined £124,000.

(www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/sitesafe/index.htm)

#### Did you know...?



On average, work-related transport results in 70 deaths per year to workers and members of the public. This makes workplace transport the second largest cause of workplace accidents (www.hse.gov.uk).

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#### Vibration

Exposure to vibration at work can occur in two main ways:

- hand--arm vibration is transmitted from work activities into workers' hands and arms. It can be caused by operating hand-held power tools, such as road breakers, and hand-guided equipment, such as powered lawnmowers, or by holding materials being processed by machines, such as grinders. Regular and frequent exposure to hand-arm vibration can lead to permanent health effects
- whole-body vibration, which is transmitted through the spine, occurs mainly where workers are driving vehicles such as tractors and earth movers for long periods. It is associated with musculoskeletal problems and other ill-health effects.

#### Did you know...?



Around 5 million workers are exposed to hand–arm vibration in the workplace. Two million of them are exposed to levels of vibration that pose clear risks of developing disease (www.hse.gov.uk).

If any of the following apply to your team, you may need to take action to minimise the risk of injury:

- do workers report tingling and numbness in their hands or fingers after using vibrating tools?
- do workers hold work pieces that vibrate while being processed by powered machinery?
- do workers regularly use hand-held or hand-guided power tools and machines, such as sanders, grinders, hammer drills or powered mowers?
- do workers regularly operate hammeraction tools for more than about 15 minutes per day or some rotary and other action tools for more than about one hour per day?
- do you work in an industry where exposures to vibration are particularly high, such as construction, foundries heavy steel fabrication or shipyards?



If you've answered 'yes' to any of these, you'll need to do a risk assessment – you could do this yourself or get a competent person to do it. Depending on what you find, you'll need to develop an action plan. You can consider these options:

- alternative ways of working try to find alternative work methods which eliminate or reduce exposure to vibration
- equipment choose the tool with the lowest vibration that is suitable and can do the work efficiently, and limit the use of high-vibration tools
- purchasing policy replace older machinery with new efficient and low-vibration equipment
- workstation design improve the design of workstations to minimise loads on employees' hands, wrists and arms caused by poor posture
- maintenance poorly maintained equipment can cause increased vibration
- protective clothing the right clothing can encourage good blood circulation, which will help protect workers from vibration white finger.

#### Work equipment

Work equipment – hand tools, powered tools or production lines – present a number of hazards, which can be grouped in two ways:

- mechanical hazards, such as contact with moving machinery, entanglement in machinery and ejection of items from the machinery
- non-mechanical hazards, such as exposure to chemicals, vibration and noise.

Where there are mechanical hazards, guarding offers a viable solution where you can't eliminate or reduce the hazard in any other way. The effectiveness of guarding depends on its design and construction and how it relates to the way of working.

Develop procedures to ensure work equipment is:

- suitable for its purpose
- set up and used in a way that minimises risks
- · well maintained
- inspected
- operated by trained users.

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#### Getting it right

Although there are a wide range of common hazards, there are some simple steps which can be applied in all cases:

- assess the risks
- involve your team in assessing the risks and in developing solutions
- · provide information and training to anyone who needs to know
- · carry out regular workplace inspections
- get competent advice and act on the recommendations.

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### Summary

1. Common hazards are...

2. You can manage common hazards by....



Module six



# Module 6: Investigating accidents and incidents

#### Key learning points

- 1. Why investigate accidents and incidents?
- 2. How do accidents and incidents happen?
- 3. How do you carry out an accident investigation?

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#### Why investigate accidents and incidents?

For most of this course, we've been raising your awareness of the things you need to do to manage health and safety and minimise the chances of things going wrong through, for example, introducing risk controls. But while you can minimise the chances of injury and ill health, it's impossible to reduce to zero the chances that occasionally things will go wrong.

So we need to know what to do on these occasions, and how to learn from them.

That's why we need to discuss accident and incident investigation.

Let's define some important terms that we'll use in this module:

**Incident** – an event or condition that doesn't cause harm but has the potential to do so.

In many organisations these events will be recorded as 'near misses'.





**Accident** – an undesired event that results in injury and/or property damage.

There are a number of reasons to investigate accidents and incidents, including:

- to collect the information you need to pass on to the enforcing authority
- to identify the cause of the accident and/or incident to stop it happening again
- to get information needed for an insurance claim
- to find out the cost of an accident.

It's good practice to carry out an investigation to find out how and why the accident and/or incident happened so that you can stop it happening again. It's also important to do this with an open mind. An investigation provides a snapshot of how work is really done – it may not be how you think it's done – and helps you to find out any shortcomings in your risk controls.

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The key benefits of investigation are to:

- make a safer work environment
- · improve workers' morale
- prevent more business losses from disruption, down-time and lost business
- prevent more accidents and/or incidents
- develop skills that can be applied elsewhere in the organisation.



#### Remember:

Incidents that don't result in any loss, such as an injury or damage to equipment, also need to be reported and investigated. This is because these incidents could cause injury or loss next time they happen.

As an example, a painter working on a platform might drop a tool, which simply falls to the ground, causing nothing more than the inconvenience of having to go and get it later. On the other hand, the tool might hit another worker or a member of the public, causing a serious head injury.

#### Did you know ...?



In many cases, investigations into major accidents reveal that a similar event had occurred in the past without resulting in serious consequences.

It's often easier to find out what happened in an incident, because there are no injuries. This can influence what people are prepared to say. There's usually a larger sample of incidents than accidents that you can use to identify trends or repetitions.

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#### How do accidents and incidents happen?

As we've already mentioned, accident investigation allows us to find out the cause of an accident or incident. However, accidents and incidents are rarely caused by a single factor – there are usually several contributory factors. Also, these factors will include obvious and immediate causes and less obvious underlying causes.

- Immediate causes unsafe actions or lack of action (for example, operating
  equipment with missing guards and bypassing interlocks, using the wrong personal
  protective equipment) and unsafe conditions (for example, damaged tools and
  equipment, or high noise and low lighting levels)
- Underlying causes factors that allow the unsafe actions and conditions to happen.
   The majority of these are related to the way the organisation manages health and safety and how people perceive risk.

Among the many contributory factors to an accident or incident, there'll be **root causes**. A root cause is a factor that may cause conditions that could result in an undesirable event. If the problem were corrected, it'd prevent the undesirable event from happening. In other words, a root cause is an event from which all other causes spring.

Only through effective investigation can the root causes of an accident or incident be identified. It's important to find out what happened but also why it happened. It's unusual for an accident or incident to have just a single root cause.

#### For example:



You're the manager of a distribution depot. It's Friday afternoon, close to the end of the working day.

One of your warehouse operatives has had enough for the day and decides to pack up early. Meanwhile, in the warehouse one of your forklift truck drivers, who's equally keen to finish his work, is driving his truck loaded with boxes of paint. The forklift truck turns a corner and heads at speed along the aisle towards the loading bay.

At that very moment, the warehouse operative comes out of an unauthorised access aisle, not looking where he's going, and heads towards a fire exit – a short cut to the car park.

The forklift truck driver sees the man at the last minute and brakes hard, but skids on a patch of oil left by a leaking forklift. He comes to an abrupt stop and the load falls onto the warehouse operative, breaking his arm and bruising his leg.



#### In this example the immediate causes are:

- struck by the load
- load falling
- forklift skidding
- patch of oil
- braking hard
- taking a shortcut
- · using the unauthorised aisle
- speed.

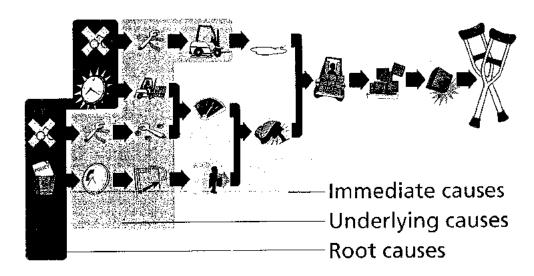


#### The underlying causes are:

- forklift leaking
- rushing to get the job done
- speed limiter removed
- lack of maintenance or inspection
- taking a short cut
- leaving work early.

#### The root causes are:

- · lack of supervision
- · work pressures
- · poor custom and practice.



We can find the causes of the accident by finding the links between the accident and the other facts.

How do you carry out an accident or incident investigation?

You'll need to have a system in place and to develop this you'll need to think about the following factors:

#### Make sure the injured person is looked after

When someone's injured in an accident, it's essential that they get the treatment they need as soon as possible. First aid is the initial management of the injury until expert medical attention is available. First aid aims to preserve life, prevent deterioration and promote recovery. You'll need to provide enough equipment, facilities and personnel of the right kind to make sure you can give first aid to employees if they're injured or become ill at work.

#### Preserving the scene of the accident

An effective investigation depends on getting all possible evidence together, so it's essential to secure the accident scene as soon as possible after the accident.



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#### Reporting the accident or incident

As soon as possible after the accident, you need to tell the injured person's line manager, who should then start the reporting process. This means completing the organisation's reporting forms and the statutory accident book.

To record this information, you can use an accident report form like the one in the appendix (page 126).





Find out what forms are used in your organisation.

In most organisations, the reporting process depends on the severity of the injury or potential severity of the incident. For example, in large organisations, fatal and major accidents will be reported to senior management immediately.

If the accident or incident needs to be reported to the enforcing authority, someone needs to contact the authority as soon as possible and complete the notification form. You must report:

- deaths
- major injuries
- injuries that lead to more than three days' absence from work
- dangerous occurrences, such as those to do with failures of lifting equipment and pressure systems, scaffold collapse and explosion or fire
- certain diseases.

The Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 give full details.

As well as your duty to report to the enforcing authority, remember that you may need to tell several other people, including:

- the family of the injured person
- the owner of any property that was damaged
- your organisation's insurance company
- your organisation's health and safety and human resources departments.

#### Did you know ...?



The typical cost to employers of a serious or major injury is £17,000 to £19,000 (www.hse.gov.uk).

#### Who carries out the investigation?

A team carrying out an accident investigation will need a range of knowledge, skills and experience. The team should be led by someone with enough authority and knowledge to make authoritative recommendations. Ideally, the team should include:

- someone familiar with the work location
- · a supervisor or manager from the work location
- · a senior manager with authority or influence
- a health and safety expert
- an employee representative
- a person involved in the accident or incident (if possible)
- a technical expert, if necessary.



In a small firm with limited resources, one person may carry out more than one of these roles. For example, a senior manager or line manager with health and safety responsibilities would take part in the investigation as it's unlikely the organisation will have a health and safety specialist. Senior managers are more likely to be part of the team for more serious accidents.

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#### Investigation process

You'll need to decide how you'll carry out the investigation. You'll also need to decide what level of investigation is needed – all accidents and incidents need to be reported but not all need the same level of investigation. Clearly, the more serious ones need deeper investigation. But also think about the likelihood of the undesired event occurring again and its worst potential consequences. For example, a tool falling off the scaffold may not have caused any injuries, but it has the potential to cause a major injury.

Likelihood of	Potenti	al worst cor	nsequence o	of event
recurrence	Minor	Serious	Major	Fatal
Possible	Low	Medium	Eleja	
Unlikely	Minimal	Low	Medium	

Minimal investigation – a supervisor looks at the circumstances of the undesired event and tries to identify how to prevent further similar events.

Low-level investigation – a supervisor or line manager does a short investigation into the circumstances and looks at the immediate, underlying and root causes of the undesired event to try to prevent it happening again.

Medium-level investigation – a more detailed investigation, involving a health and safety practitioner and employee representatives.

High-level investigation – the highest level of investigation, using a team-based approach that includes line managers, supervisors, health and safety practitioners, and employee representatives, and is led by a senior manager.

#### Did you know...?



The Piper Alpha explosion killed 167 people and cost more than £2 billion (www.hse.gov.uk).

A good investigation has a structured approach.

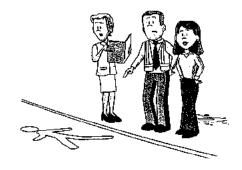
Information gathering: You need to find out where and when the accident or incident happened and who was involved, how it happened and what happened. This will involve gathering physical evidence (such as broken parts and debris), taking photos and witness statements, and looking at documents like risk assessments and operating procedures. You need good interpersonal skills to interview witnesses.





Analysis: At this stage you need to look at all the information you've gathered to identify what happened and why. There are several ways to do this, but it's essential to do the analysis carefully and systematically. If you find that human error or deliberate violations were part of the cause, you'll need to discover whether someone forgot, didn't know or deliberately ignored a rule. This will help when considering how to avoid it happening again.

Reviewing risk control measures: At this stage you'll be able to identify where changes need to be made to risk control measures to prevent the accident or incident happening again. You'll need to evaluate the possible options carefully. Consider also whether you need to make similar changes elsewhere in the organisation.





**Action planning**: This is about deciding what changes are going to be made, by when and by whom. It's essential that someone in authority is responsible for delivering the action plan.

To record this information, you can use an investigation form like the one in the appendix (pages 127, 128 and 129).



Find out what forms are used in your organisation.

#### **External relations**

You'll need to have plans in place for dealing with external bodies — for example, the enforcement authorities, media and local residents and businesses. It's essential that only designated people release information to these parties and that this happens when it's clear what's happened and what's going to happen.

HSE and local authority inspectors have the right to enter all workplaces under their jurisdiction in order to carry out their duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act. So it's an offence to refuse entry to an enforcement officer. Inspectors can gather copies of documents, take samples and photos and ask questions.



## Always treat inspectors with the respect their position deserves.

If an inspector suspects that an offence has been committed, they'll issue a caution to a designated representative of the organisation.

In large organisations there'll be procedures for dealing with enforcement visits. In smaller organisations, it's a good idea to have a nominated individual to act as the main contact for such visits.



Find out what procedures are in place in your organisation!

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#### Getting it right

- Investigation is about finding out what went wrong and why, so that it doesn't happen again. It's not about finding out who to blame.
- While you think an accident may never happen to you and your organisation, having plans and procedures in place for investigating accidents and incidents before they occur will help to make the investigation process as effective as possible if the worst happens.
- Sharing the findings of the investigation is as important as its quality. To get the full benefit from an investigation, you need to communicate the lessons learned as widely as possible. Different people in the organisation will need different levels and types of information. For example, workers using similar processes to those involved in the accident or incident will need detailed information on how to avoid the conditions that led to the accident, but a senior manager will need only summary information.

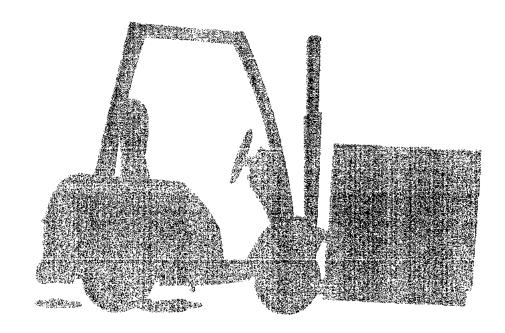
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#### Summary

1. You need to investigate accidents and incidents because...

2. Accidents and incidents happen because...

3. You can carry out an accident investigation by...



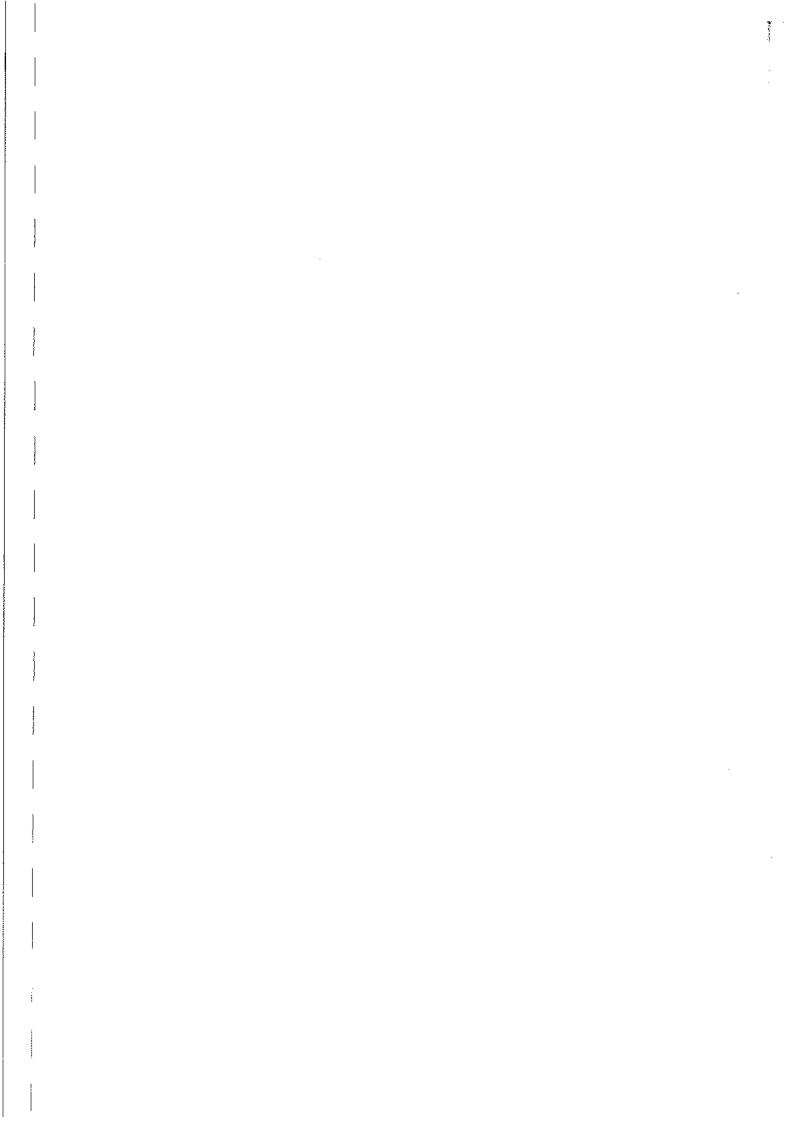
Date/time of event:	Location:	Incident (near miss)	or Damage to property only	ress;					OLOGO Santable		Entry in accident book:	Date/time entered:	Signature:
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iosh Accidentincident report	Company:	Type of event:	Harm (or potential for harm): Teatal or	Employee involved in event: Name:	Position:	Contact nu	Brief description of event: (Details of what happened, when, where, and emergency action taken)	Details of witness(es), if any: (Name, position, contact number, etc.)		Investigation required.  Investigation level: High	Priority:	Leader of investigation:	Reported by: Position:

report ר	Location:	Location: Date:	Time:	
Accident/incident investigation report	Department:	Employee(s) involved:	Injuries or ill health effects, if any:	
iosh Accident/	Company:	Event details:		Investigation details: Include details such as: Overview of the event Overview of working procedures Overview of the event Overview of the event Overview of the event Overview of the event

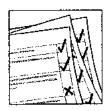
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Accident/incident investigation report

	es Root causes	ecurrence?	Actual Manager responsible completion date			reviewed and updated?	Actual Manager responsible completion date	
	<b>Underlying causes</b>	mented to prevent r	Planned completion date comp			cedures need to be	Planned pletion date comp	
	e causes	Which risk control measures should be implemented to prevent recurrence?			·	Which risk assessments and safe working procedures need to be reviewed and updated?	ntrol comp	
Causes of the event:	Immediate causes	Which risk control n	Risk control			Which risk assessme	Risk control	



Module seven



## Module 7: Measuring performance

#### Key learning points

- 1. What is performance measurement about?
- 2. How do you measure health and safety performance?
- What is auditing?

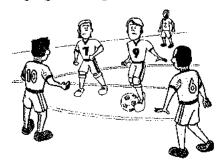
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#### What is performance measurement about?

So, you know why you need to manage health and safety, what you have to do and how you can do it. We've also covered how you can learn when things go wrong.

But do you know how you're doing overall? Is this year the same as last, is it worse or is it better? Remember the football team in Module 4. They measured their performance by matches won, drawn and lost, and their league position.

The best way to find out is to set some indicators that enable you to keep an eye on how you're doing in health and safety terms.

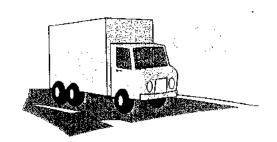




Although we may not realise it, measuring performance is important in all aspects of our lives, at leisure and at work. For example, if we play sport, we can measure our performance by the number of games we win, lose or draw. At work, our performance is assessed by our manager against agreed criteria.

Performance indicators provide us with information on:

- what's going on around us
- what's happened so far
- potential problems or dangers that we may need to respond to.



For example, think about driving a lorry:

- The speedometer gives information on speed and allows us to make adjustments to deal with current speed limits. Similarly, the fuel and oil gauges provide information that allows us to take action before the lorry stops working because it's run out.
- The tachograph gives us information on the distance and hours travelled.
- The satellite navigation system provides information on our proposed route and any delays that crop up.

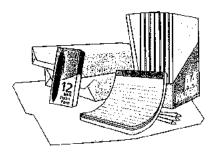
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Some indicators give us information on the outcomes of our actions (in this case driving), such as the distance we've travelled and the number of hours we've spent driving. We tend to refer to these measures or indicators as 'reactive'.



Other indicators give us information about the current situation that might impact on future performance, such as speed and traffic flow. We tend to refer to these measures or indicators as 'proactive'. Both types of indicators are important.

It's good practice to develop performance measures that match organisational or departmental objectives. There's not much point developing indicators that tell you about something that's not really important to your organisation or department. Let's illustrate the points we've been discussing so far.



Let's suppose you're a manager in a business selling stationery supplies. You aim to offer quality products and service to your customers so that you achieve customer satisfaction. What sort of information would help you to measure business performance?

Monthly sales will tell you the outcome of your efforts – from these you can see whether there are any variations in the sales figures and, importantly, you can determine your profit (and loss). This gives a measure of your bottom line.

However, this information doesn't give you the full picture. If you also collect information about the number of deliveries made on time, the number and nature of customer complaints, the number of new accounts opened and the number of enquiries answered within 24 hours, you'll also get information about how your business is doing. Then you'll have the chance to respond to a potential problem, such as a deterioration in service delivery.

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How do we measure health and safety performance?

Just as in the previous examples, we have two ways of getting information about health and safety performance:

#### Reactive measurement

This focuses on collecting information on the outcomes of our health and safety management system, including accidents, incidents, ill health, the absence of these negative events, and the number of days without an accident or incident.

You can calculate your organisation's injury incidence rate as follows:

## number of reportable injuries in a given period (such as a year)

Injury incidence rate =

÷

x 100,000

### average number of employees who worked during the period

This is useful for comparing your performance year on year and for measuring your performance against national statistics for your sector – you can get this information from the enforcing authority. Analysis of this type of information is useful in identifying trends – for example, what types of accident are happening and how serious they are.

However, gathering information about accidents and ill health does have limitations – can you think what these could be?

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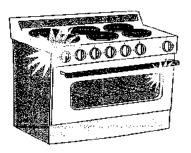
#### Proactive measurement

For example:

This type of measurement is about providing information on how well you're managing health and safety **before** undesired events such as accidents, incidents and ill-health happen. To measure health and safety performance in this way you'll need to look at the things (inputs) that contribute to effective health and safety management.

- your work environment and equipment
- · safe systems of work and procedures
- people employees and contractors.

You'll also need to find ways of measuring these inputs.



For example, carrying out workplace inspections can help us check that work equipment is in good working order and the work environment is OK. It also gives us the chance to deal with any problems before they cause an incident. So, measuring the number of completed workplace inspections against the number planned provides a useful indicator of how well we're managing health and safety.

Similarly, giving people training helps them to do their jobs safely, so measuring how much training your staff are getting is another indicator of how well you're managing health and safety.

Remember, there's no 'one size fits all' – different organisations will need different indicators.

#### Good indicators are:

- objective and easy to measure and collect
- relevant to the organisation or group whose performance you're measuring
- able to provide prompt and reliable indications of the level of performance
- cost-effective in terms of the effort needed to gather the information
- understood and owned by the organisation or group whose performance you're measuring



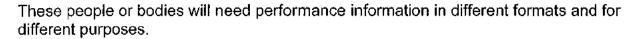
Find out what performance indicators are used in your organisation.

There's a range of people who'll be interested in information about an organisation's performance measurement. Some will be internal to the organisation, for example:

- senior management
- · line managers
- employees
- safety/employee representatives
- · shareholders.

Some will be external to the organisation, for example:

- enforcement agencies
- insurers
- clients
- the public.



#### Did you know ...?



In a study of whether health and safety information was included in companies' annual reports, websites and other publicly available documents, it was found that just under half of the 279 companies reported on their health and safety performance. (Peebles *et al.*, 2003).

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#### What is auditing?

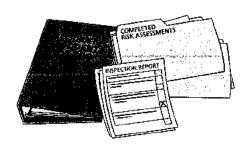
Auditing aims to find objective evidence (or evidence that's as objective as possible) for whether the current way of managing health and safety meets the organisation's health and safety policy and aims.



There are two levels of auditing:

- **internal auditing** is done by staff within the organisation and helps managers by measuring the effectiveness of health and safety management
- external auditing is done by a third party and provides an independent view. It often represents the interests of other stakeholders as well as management.

Audits typically use three types of evidence:



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- documentation to check whether it adequately covers the hazards in the organisation
- interviews to check that awareness, know-how and resources are appropriate
- observation to check what's described in the documentation is really present in the workplace

Audit findings are of little use unless we act on them. As a manager, you may be involved, along with senior management, in producing an action plan to deal with audit findings.

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#### Getting it right

- Performance measurement is key in knowing how individuals, groups and organisations are performing.
- Reactive performance measures focus on the outputs of health and safety, which are
  often negative. They're easily gathered but have limitations.
- Proactive performance measures focus on the inputs to health and safety. They're
  powerful, as they can provide warnings of problems before they happen, but they must
  relate to the outputs and the organisation's objectives.
- An audit checks whether your overall approach to health and safety is delivering the results you want.

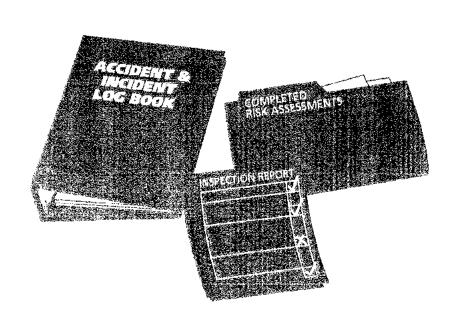
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#### Summary

1. Measuring performance is about...

2. You can measure health and safety performance by...

3. Auditing is about...



Module eight



### Module 8: Protecting our environment

### Key learning points

- 1. What's the impact of industry on the environment?
- 2. How can we control pollution and waste?
- 3. What are the main elements of an environmental management system?

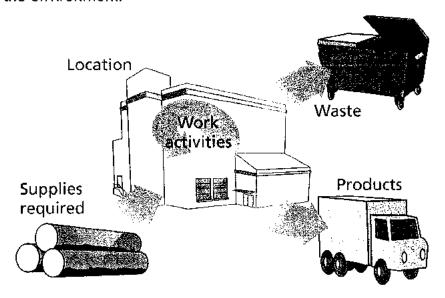
### What's the impact of industry on the environment?

What do we mean by the environment? Well, it's everything that surrounds us – air, land and water.

Together, these provide the conditions for developing and sustaining all forms of life – including us. So, we need to treat this resource with the respect it deserves.



Businesses and organisations interact with the environment in different ways and have different effects on it. The nature of the work activities, their location, the products and services they lead to, and the supplies they use are just some of the factors that influence their effect on the environment.





Think about how your company affects the environment.



Sometimes one event can have an immediate impact on the environment, such as a spillage from an oil tanker. Other impacts are gradual and have more than one cause, such as the build-up of greenhouse gases. Sources of pollution can harm a wide range of living things. For example, contaminated land can affect the ecosystem by passing pollution into a watercourse.

### Did you know...?



In 2005, there were:

- 99 water pollution incidents
- 8 land pollution incidents
- 6 air pollution incidents.

These all had a major impact on the environment.

**Waste** is what businesses and organisations throw away because they no longer need it or want it. For example:



Industry	Main waste streams
Car manufacturer	metals, plastics, oil, vehicles, paints and tyres
Construction	soils, demolition waste, asbestos, paints and solvents, plasterboard and wood
Engineering	cutting oils, swarf, packaging, solvents and metals
Food production/retail	organic waste, transit packaging, cardboard, refrigerants, animal tissue, waste water treatment sludge and preservatives
Service sector/finance	paper, catering wastes, office furniture, computers, electronic equipment and fluorescent tubes
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**Pollution** is the release of harmful substances or energy into the environment. It can contaminate water, land and air.

### Water pollution can occur through:

- incorrect drainage connections, resulting in industrial waste entering surface water drains, which in turn flow into rivers
- oil, solvents, detergents and other chemicals being washed into surface water drains, such as during machinery and vehicle cleaning
- · accidental spillage of oils and chemicals during deliveries
- leakage of oils or chemicals from drums and tanks
- spillage of bulk foodstuffs such as milk, alcohol or cream.



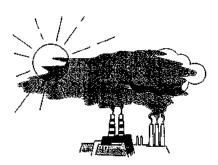


### Land pollution can occur through:

- dumping hazardous waste
- leaks and spills of materials
- · water run-off during firefighting.

### Air pollution can occur through:

 burning coal, oil or natural gas, which give off gases such as carbon dioxide (known as greenhouse gases) and can produce smoke and dust.



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### How can we control pollution and waste?

Having identified how your organisation affects the environment, you'll need to establish which issues are the most important to manage. One way to do this is through a risk assessment – we've already discussed this in Module 2. The same process applies to environmental risks. In this case, the risk assessment involves finding out the likelihood of something happening that could affect the environment and its consequence.

How you deal with pollutants and waste from your organisation's activities will depend on a number of factors:

- the potential impact of the pollutant
- any specific legal requirements
- developments in best practice
- your organisation's values and policy
- concerns of your stakeholders
- · cost.

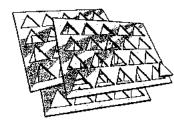
### Did you know ...?



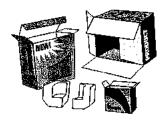
In 2005, the Environment Agency prosecuted 317 businesses resulting in total fines of over £2.7 million. This is a 16 per cent increase on 2004. The agency also prosecuted 28 company directors – more than double the number in 2004 – and 47 other individuals for business-related crimes. A further 66 people were given other hard-hitting penalties in addition to fines, including four jail sentences, two driving disqualifications and 25 community service orders.

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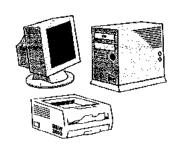
This hierarchy will help you identify the best solution:



**Prevent** – by changing the way you do things so that you eliminate certain kinds of waste.



Reduce – by using less packaging or improving efficiency.



**Reuse** – by putting materials back in to use instead of disposing of them.



**Recover** – by reprocessing waste so that it can still be used, recycling waste materials to produce usable goods, like repulping paper, composting organic waste, using combustible waste as a fuel or turning organic waste into fuel.



Responsibly release or dispose of – taking account of any relevant standards. Sometimes waste may need to be made harmless before it can be released.

If there's an incident that releases pollutants, your organisation needs to have processes in place to reduce the chance of the pollutant doing any damage (for example, reaching a watercourse) and to repair any damage that does occur. These processes should be part of your organisation's emergency procedures. You'll need to review them regularly and organise practice drills to test them. Some organisations have to have a tiered response for various scales of emergency.

Pollution can be prevented by setting limits for emissions to air, land and water. Depending on what it does, your organisation may have consent limits, which allow it to emit certain levels of pollutants. If you break these limits, you must tell the regulator – in England and Wales this is the Environment Agency, and in Scotland the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.

### Did you know ...?



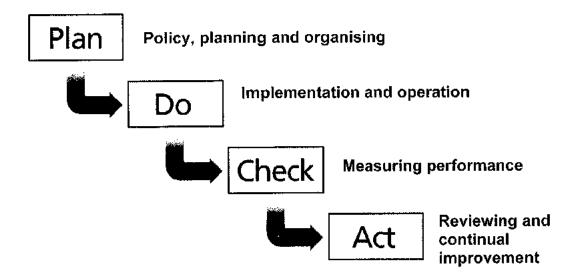
British industry spends £1,100 per worker on environmental protection measures (DEFRA, 2006)

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What are the main elements of an environmental management system?

Remember health and safety management systems in Module 4?

We said that the best way to manage health and safety risks was to have a systematic approach based on the plan, do, check, act cycle. We said it was central to good business management – it works just as well for environmental management.



The main driver for setting up an environmental management system (EMS) is to minimise your organisation's business risks associated with how it interacts with the environment. Some key benefits of an EMS for your organisation:

- it can be a condition of getting a licence to operate
- · it enables effective cost control
- it gives better access to product and capital markets
- it improves relations with the general public.

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- 1. It takes ......litres of oil to pollute one million litres of drinking water.
- 2. .... kilograms of waste is recycled/composted per person in the UK each year.
- 3. The average person produces ......kilograms of waste each year.
- 4. The average UK office worker wastes ...... litres of water each month.
- 5. An average company could save £...... each year by printing on both sides of every A4 sheet.
- 6. There are plastic bags used in the UK each hour.
- 8. The UK produces .....tonnes of waste each year.

### Getting it right

- Environmental control leads to cost control you need to check out efficiency, acceptability of products and services and the best use of materials and by-products.
- Planning to prevent and reduce pollution and waste is cheaper than cleaning up after the event.
- Good environmental performance has several advantages: increased profitability and competitiveness, enhanced investment profile, better industrial and public relations and reduced insurance premiums.
- Integrating environmental factors into your team's responsibilities is a key factor in achieving good environmental performance.

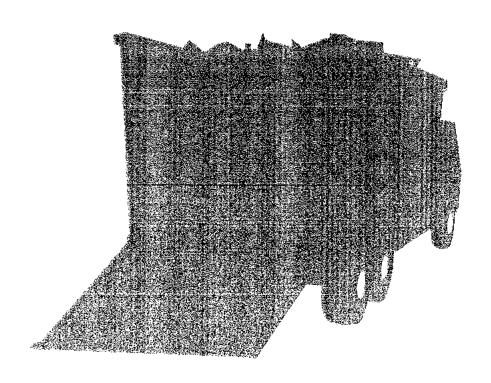
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### Summary

- 1. Industry affects the environment by...
- 2. We can control pollution and waste by...



3. The main elements of an environmental management system are...



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Highfield Drive
Wigston
Leicestershire
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t +44 (0)116 257 3100 f +44 (0)116 257 3101 www.iosh.co.uk IOSH is Europe's leading body for health and safety professionals. We have nearly 30,000 members worldwide, including more than 8,000 Chartered Safety and Health Practitioners.

The Institution was founded in 1945 and is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that sets professional standards, supports and develops members and provides authoritative advice and guidance on health and safety issues. IOSH is formally recognised by the ILO as an international non-governmental organisation.



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### IOSH Managing safely – Mock Assessment 1

For marker's use

Name	ROLANDO TIAUZONS	. Date	28 140107
Course	provider/OSH/ MANJ46 EMENT	70211311	6 COUNCE

On average how many people are killed at work each year in the UK? (Put a ✓ opposite ONE of the options.)

145	
245	
345	

2. Which of the following are true? (Put a ✓ opposite all statements you think are true.)

A hazard is anything that has the potential to cause harm	
Likelihood is the outcome of the hazardous event	
A hazardous event takes place when someone or something interacts with the hazard	
A hazard by itself is harmful	
There's only one way to do a risk assessment	
Risk is a combination of the likelihood of a hazardous event occurring and the consequence of the event	

 Which of the following are true? (Put a ✓ opposite all statements you think are true.)

	···
Risk controls that are at the top of the hierarchy are the least preferred option	
The most effective method of risk control is to completely eliminate the hazard	V
One way to eliminate the hazard is to substitute it	$V_{\underline{}}$
None of the methods in the hierarchy of risk control have weaknesses	
The third most effective risk control is personal protective equipment	
Hazards can also be eliminated by avoiding some activities	

4. List the six steps of carrying out a risk assessment.

1	MAKE LIST OF THE WORK
2	IDENTIFY THE RICK
3	ESTIMMATE THE RISK
4	"EVALUATE THE PISK
5	RECORD FINDINGS
6	REVIEW YOUR FINDINGS

5. List the last **three** risk controls in the risk control hierarchy.

1	KOLDTE	
2	CENTREL	
3	PPE	

For marker's

use

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degrees Celsius

Natural light is the best form of lighting

### IOSH Managing safely – Mock Assessment 2

For marker's use

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our	se provider FOSTER NOTE LILLE	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
	On discovering a fire what is the first thing you should do? (Put a ✓ <b>ONE</b> of the options.)	opposite
ſ	Extinguish the fire	
	Leave the building immediately	W.
ſ	Sound the alarm	V.
	Which of the following are true? (Put a ✓ opposite all statements yetrue.)  Chemicals can only get into the body by deliberate or accidental injection	ou think ar
	Slips and trips are the least common cause of major injuries at work	
	A person's occupation is a key factor in determining their risk of being exposed to violence	/
	Generally, the temperature in workrooms should be at least 16	

Generally, physical attacks are more common than verbal abuse

3.	Which of the following are true?	(Put a ✓	opposite all statements you think	are
	true.)			

As a manager, you have a legal requirement under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 to manage health and safety risks	/
Breaching health and safety law can lead to criminal proceedings	✓ <u> </u>
Under civil law, the most likely outcome for a successful case is fines and possible imprisonment	
You have tweive months to take legal action under criminal law	
In a criminal case, the Health and Safety Executive or local authority starts legal proceedings	<b>√</b>
The main purpose of civil law is to provide compensation for the employer	V

4. For a successful civil case, what are the three things the claimant must show?

1	BUTH 35 07-77
2	BUTH WAS BRUPER
3	FRENT CAUSED WE TO ENEACH

5. Some accidents and incidents are reportable to the enforcing authority. List **three** of these.

1	PERT
2	positioner
3	Process fine

For marker's use

### Introduction

As part of the *Managing safely* assessment procedure, you have to complete a project and have it assessed. The project takes the form of a careful examination of your work environment and a risk assessment. You need to record the results on the attached sheets and submit them for marking. **The project must be handwritten**.

When you have completed your work you should return it to

MARTIN BARPLE

FOSTER WHITELER

SHINFIELD PARK

RENDING

RG2 9FW

There is a two week time limit for the return of the project. Your project must be completed and returned by

16 AUGUST 2007

### Instructions

Please read all of the instructions before starting work on your project.

The project is broken down into a number of parts. Please complete each section as detailed below.

Part 1 - description of the work tasks that are your responsibility

Record a brief description of all the work tasks within your work environment including:

- description/sketch of the location(s)
- people who work in or visit the area on a regular basis or from time to time
- permanent and temporary items of equipment and substances
- activities carried out within your work environment

### Part 2 - a hazard checklist of the location(s)

Record a brief description of **three** location hazards that may arise in your work environment. For each of these hazards please include:

- a description of the location
- a description of the hazard
- the number and occupation of people who could be affected by the hazard
- whether a risk assessment is recommended

Part 3 – a hazard checklist of permanent and/or temporary items of equipment and substances used in your work environment

Record a brief description of three hazards that may arise from equipment or substances used. For each of these hazards please include:

- a description of permanent and/or temporary items of equipment and substances used
- a description of the hazard
- the number and occupation of people who could be affected by the hazard
- whether a risk assessment is recommended.

Part 4 - a hazard checklist of the activities carried out within your work environment

Record a brief description of **three** hazards that may arise from within your work environment. For each of these hazards please include:

- a description of the work activity
- a description of the hazard
- the number and occupation of people who could be affected by the hazard
- whether a risk assessment is recommended.

### Part 5 - carrying out a risk assessment

Please carry out a risk assessment on all three of the activity hazards you have listed on part 4. Please make sure you include:

- a description of the work activity
- a description of the hazard, hazardous event and expected consequence
- the number and occupation of people affected
- an assessment of risk (please use the 5 x 5 matrix)
- whether risk controls are required

Note: for the purpose of this exercise all three activity hazards that you are assessing on part 5 must require risk controls.

### Part 6 - risk control recommendations

Please complete the risk control form for all three activity hazards you have listed on part 4. Please make sure you include:

- a description of the work activity and risk level from the risk assessment
- existing risk controls
- any further risk controls required
- the residual risk (please use the 5 x 5 matrix)
- a description of the type of monitoring required and how often

Note: where you have large numbers of hazards in your work environment you will not have space to record them all. In these circumstances, select a representative sample of hazards for the purposes of this project and record only these. Remember that only three hazards are required for parts 2, 3, and 4. Do not submit any additional material in support of your project work as only the six parts of the project will be assessed.

Each part has a maximum number of marks which can be awarded and details are given in the table below.

Maximum marks
19
18
18
18
43
39
155
78

Finally, before returning your project, check that your name, the name of your company and where appropriate, the site name, are recorded on each of the seven sheets. Please also record on each sheet the date on which your course ended (end of course date) and the name of the training provider.

Please note: the small square boxes in the bottom right hand corner of each section on parts 2 to 6 are for the markers use only.

iosh

### Part 1 - description of the work tasks that are your responsibility (continued on the next page)

Marks allocated

Delegate name. ROLANDO 7 /AUZON End of course date. 3/ JULY 2007

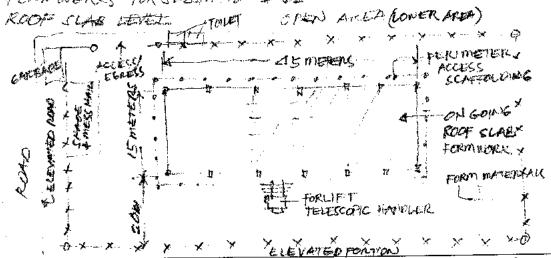
Company ONTRACTING & CONCTRACTION Site name THETROPERSON

Training provider.... FCSTER WHEELER

A description/sketch of the location(s)

OUTDOOR

FORMWORKS FOR SUBSATION # 62.



A description of the people who work in or visit the area on a regular basis or from time to time

- I CONTRACTOR!
  - 3 ENGINEERS PERMANETHLY
  - 20 WORKERS PERMANENTLY
- 2- HSE INSPECTOR DAILY ROUTINE UNCHEDONER
- 1- RA/RC INSPECTOR DAILY
- 2- CLIENT REPRESENTATIVES DAILY
- 1- DELIVERY OFERATORS DAILY



### Part 1 – description of the work tasks that are your responsibility

Marks allocated

Delegate name. ROLANDO TIAMZAN End of course date. 37 VV27 2007

Company. GENTER PRICES LTD. Site name. FETRORPEIGH

Training provider #8576K PPERLER

A description of permanent and temporary pieces of equipment and substances used in your work environment

1- FORKLIFT TELETCOPIC GENTLER JOB DESEL FLELED

1- CIRCULAR CAN (220V) PINCH

1- GENERATOR (2201) DIETEZ FUELED

1- GRINDER 4" DIA (220V) MAKITA BRAND

1- ELECTRAC EXALL (270V)

1- DIETEL FUEL (1 DRUM)

A description of the activities carried out within your work environment

ROOF SLAW FORMWORKS!

1. ROOF LEVEL PERIMETER SCAFFOLDING ACCESS INSTALLATION

2. KEGE SLAB INSTALLATION OF SCAFFOLDING SUPPORTS

3 ROOF SLAB FORM PLYBOARD INSTALLATION & FRAMES

4. OUTTING OF FORM WOODS & PLYBOARDS

5. LIFTING & FORM MATERIALS HADLING TO RECY LEVEL BY TELESCOPIC HANDLER EQUIPMENT

# iosh The location(s) you manage

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Permanent and temporary pieces of equipment and substances used in the work environment Hazard checklist: equipment and substances

Part 3

Site name: Cass table

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iosh Activities carried out within your work environment

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Note: For the purpose of this	orense of this exercise, all three ac	is exercise, all three activity hazards must require a risk assessment.	1011
Description of the work activity	Description of the hazard	Number and occupation of Risk people affected	Risk assessment recommended?
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### iosh Risk control form

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Date of next review: Signature: Position: Review period: Assessor's name: Date:

## Hazard checklist: location(s)

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Description of the location	Description of the hazard	Number and occupation of people affected	Risk assessment recommended?
1. BUILDING ROOF LEVEL	- WORKING AT HEIGHTS	10- CARPENTERS	MYes INo
PERIMETER ACCESS AREA	- HEAT STRESS	10 - HELPERS	
2, CUBSTATION	SOOM to SMILLING -	1- CARPENTER	Dyes Dwo
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WORMING AREA	- 4619E HAZARD		
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3, Post SLAB	- WORKING AT HEIGHTS	10- CARPENTER	
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Hazard checklist: equipment and substances

Part 3

Permanent and temporary pieces of equipment and substances used in the work environment

1 DEPARTMENT Site name: CURCTATION 天

recommended? SY es Uno Risk assessment Number and occupation of 10 - OR MORA WORKERS 2 - WORKERS, HELPERS people affected いれたないない 2 - TELPERS TER UNCOADING OURING LIFTING & BACKING VEHICLE PEDEGRIAN GOLLISION Company: Countetive&courrenchepartment: CANCED FROM BACKING Description of the hazard 0/1 JEKKS TO 50/1 CERTORS FECTORISTS REVERSING ACTION Bumps, wanter ELECTRICATION わたいだろれる EXMANS RINES - NO1SE - No156 FOR FORM WOODS DELIVERY TRACKS equipment/substances AND PLYBOARDS Description of the EDVIENT GENERATOR THE LESS COPIC 3. ELECTRIC HANDLER

### Hazard checklist: activities

Activities carried out within your work environment

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### iosh Risk assessment form

S Site name: Sukgranan HICE DEPONATIONERS Company: coutraging & construction partment:

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Signature: 更买 Position: Assessor's name: POLANDO TIANZON

### iosh

### Risk control form

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Date: 29 July 0.		Assessor's harne: Polando Tianzen	
Date:		Assess	

LOLER = Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998

**PUWER =** Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998

The Control of Substances Hazardous

COSHH = to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended)

REPORTING of INJURIES, DISEASES and DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES REGULATIONS

RIDDOR =

1 April 1996.

HASAWA = Health & Safety at Work Act 1974

**COMAH = CONTROL OF MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS REGULATIONS 1999**