

Safe & Well Waypoint

Occupational Health & Safety Talks

protecting the worker through safe practices & internal responsibility

Topics: HAZARD RECOGNITION, REPORTING, IRS

What is an occupational hazard?

An occupational hazard is a thing or situation with the potential to harm a worker by causing an injury or the development of an occupational disease.

It is important to note that a "hazard" only represents a potential to cause harm. Whether it actually does cause harm will depend on circumstances, such as the toxicity of the health hazard, exposure amount, and duration.

Hazards can also be rated according to the severity of the harm they cause - a significant hazard being one with the potential to cause a critical injury or death.

How should workplace health and safety hazards be dealt with?

There is a three-step process for dealing with workplace hazards. First they must be recognized; then they must be assessed; and finally, if necessary, they must be controlled. Recognition involves both identifying a hazard and determining if there is a possibility of workers being affected by it. If there is such a possibility, it must be assessed and if it is found to be significant, the hazard must be controlled.

Control can be applied at the source of the hazard, along the path between the source and the worker, or at the worker. Control at the source is preferred.

Waypoint Hazard Recognition Program

Internal Responsibility System (IRS)

Health and Safety is EVERYONES responsibility. The IRS is a system introduced by the Ministry of Labour to ensure the employer, supervisor and the worker can be held accountable to champion a safe work environment.

How are hazards recognized?

Effective Supervision. Competent managers/supervisors are able to assess the people, materials, environment and processes to identify risk and develop safe practices.

Workplace Inspections. At Waypoint Hazards are identified in by using a planned approach through Managers and JOHSC monthly Health and Safety Inspections.

Risk Assessments (RA). Conducted annually by all levels of the organization, risk assessments identify key concerns related to our number one hazard—Workplace Violence. Plans are developed and implemented as an effort to reduce risk.

Accident Investigations. Near miss and injuries are reported, managed and monitored electronically by managers. JHSC audits and investigates both incidents and trends to ensure action has been taken to protect the worker and prevent reoccurrence.



Hazard Reporting Steps

1. Report to immediate supervisor.
2. Manager investigated hazard to confirm and take immediate action to protect the workers, if necessary.
3. Manager identifies the root cause of the hazard and determines if further controls are required.
4. If controls are required, manager develops action plan, with clear timelines and persons responsible.
5. Manager follows up with action plan and communicates results to their employees.