

# TOOL BOX TALKS: STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION OF SAFETY



**Topic:** Hazard Identification

**Meeting Goal(s):**

At the end of the meeting, workers will be able to identify the sources of hazards on a job site.

**Lesson Content:**

**Background Information**

**Hazard Types**

Occupational hazards are divided into two types:

**Health Hazards:** A health hazard may produce serious and immediate (acute) health effects or cause long-term (chronic) health problems. All or part of the body may be affected. Someone with an occupational illness may not recognize the symptoms immediately. For example, noise-induced hearing loss is often not noticed until it is well advanced.

**Safety Hazards:** A safety hazard is anything that could endanger the immediate safety of an employee, for example, a pinch point, crush, or burn hazard.

**Presentation**

**What is hazard identification?**

*Hazard identification* is a process used to identify existing and potential hazards. It is necessary in order to assess and control hazards for safety.



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## *Sources of Hazards*

There are many sources of hazards in a workplace, however, the three most likely sources that should be considered are:

**People:** Lack of training, poor communication, rushing, fatigue, and other factors may cause at-risk behaviours.

**Equipment and Materials:** Some equipment, tools and materials used in the job process are inherently hazardous, and others become hazardous over time due to inadequate maintenance, storage, or disposal.

**Workplace Environment:** Factors such as facility layout, ventilation and lighting, walking surfaces, temperature and other variables can all be sources of hazards.

## **Summary:**

Often workplace hazards come from more than one source. Being aware of hazards in your surroundings can affect your safety in the workplace.

## **Discussion**

As we are going to the worksite today, what hazards are we likely to encounter and what are their sources?

**You may also use the following examples to check your understanding of hazard sources.**

1. A coworker is rushing in late for work and he slips and falls on a patch of ice

*Answer: People*



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2. Part of your job involves working with Benzene

*Equipment and Materials*

3. You only got about 5 hours sleep last night

*People (you)*

4. It is 40 degrees below zero and your worksite has little shelter

*Environment*

## Sources

Information taken from Alberta Government at

<http://www.employment.alberta.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PS-building.pdf>

And Enform – Introduction to Safety Management Systems Guideline  
july2003.pdf"}<http://ww2.enform.ca/cms-assets/documents/31271-111984.irpv019newjuly2003.pdf>}

**Feedback / Changes / Additions:**



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