

Types of HAZARDS



What is a Hazard?

The OH&S Act defines “hazard” as a situation, condition, or thing that may be dangerous to health and safety.

A hazard can be a thing, such as a chemical or medication, or a process, such as a repeated motion. It may be visible, like a piece of equipment, or invisible such as radiation or stress. Many hazards are not noticeable, and the effects may appear over a long period of time. For something to be reported as a hazard, it doesn’t have to have caused harm yet.

Categories of Hazards

PHYSICAL HAZARDS

- › Lifting and handling loads
- › Repetitive motions
- › Slipping and tripping
- › Sharp objects
- › Fire
- › Excess noise
- › Inadequate lighting
- › Vibration
- › Ionizing radiation
- › Workplace violence
- › Working alone

CHEMICAL HAZARDS

Disinfectants, solvents, or cleaners

- › Smoke
- › Scents, fumes, formaldehyde
- › Gases, including anesthetic gases
- › Asbestos

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

- › Blood or body fluids
- › Mould
- › Sewage
- › Viruses or bacteria
- › Fungi
- › Parasites

PSYCHOLOGICAL HAZARDS

- › Working conditions
- › Stress
- › Fatigue
- › Violence
- › Harassment
- › Traumatic incidents
- › Long hours
- › Rotating shift work