

### **Campus Safety**

**Examples of Common Workplace Hazards**

The following is a list of common workplace hazards. The list is broken down into the four main categories of hazards; Physical, Chemical, Biological and Psychological. This list is not all-inclusive. When completing the Hazard Assessment and Control Form, list all of the hazards which are present at the worksite. For more information on hazards, contact [Safety Services](mailto:safety.services@uleth.ca).

# Physical Hazards:

Physical hazards cause injury to workers when an object, piece of equipment or material comes in contact with a worker. Physical hazards are often associated with an uncontrolled source of energy; kinetic, electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic, etc. Examples of physical hazards are:

Flash arc

Exposure to unguarded or unprotected electrical equipment

Working with high voltage equipment

Exposure to Electro- magnetic fields Incorrect wiring

Loose surface conditions Wet surface conditions Object(s) on the floor Blocked walkways

Poor design or lay-out of work area

Uneven surfaces Small or inadequate walkways

Force of movement Repetition of movement Awkward Postures Sustained / static postures Contract stress

Vibration

Poor work station design Lighting conditions Temperature extremes Humidity extremes Exposure to sunlight / UV radiation

Working at heights Restricted / confined spaces

Working with powered equipment

Working with unguarded equipment

Pinch points Nip points

Unguarded machines or work areas

Overhead hazards Sharp edges

Fast moving equipment

# Chemical Hazards:

Chemical hazards are substances which, because of its characteristics and effects, may cause harm to human health and safety. Chemical hazards can be broken down to include exposure to; vapours, gasses, mists, dusts, fumes and smoke. Examples of chemical hazards include exposure to:

Chemical reactions Production of chemicals Chemical incompatibility Chemical storage

Flammable Substances Combustible substances Carcinogenic substances Mutagenic substances

Teratogenic substances Oxidizing substances Corrosive substances Pressurized containers

# Biological Hazards:

Biological hazards are organisms or substances produced by organisms that may pose a threat to human health and safety. Biological hazards include exposure to:

Blood or other body fluids or tissue

Human waste Anthrax

Fungi / moulds Bacteria and viruses Poisonous plants Animal waste

Threat of insect or animal bites

Drugs / cytotoxic substances

# Psychological Hazards:

Psychological hazards cause workers mental distress or distraction. Although a rather new hazard classification, it is critical that psychological hazards are thoroughly identified and controlled Examples of psychological hazards include:

Violence in the workplace Work pace

Working alone

Over / under worked

Worker phobias Poor leadership Lack of motivation No procedures

Bullying and harassment Client / patient aggression Fatigue

Shift work

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