



Practical Tips

HAZARD RECOGNITION: CATEGORIES/TYPES OF HAZARDS

Everyone may be exposed to a variety of hazards on and off the job. Hazards may be categorized by four types: chemical, physical, biological, and ergonomic. These categories, and related key points about each hazard type, are profiled in the at-a-glance chart below.

In addition to the information provided below, see the American National Standard for Information Management for Occupational Safety—ANSI Z16.2 and the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for hazard categories and definitions.

Chemical Hazards	Physical Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inhalation• Skin contact• Absorption• Injection• Ingestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electrical• Fire/explosion• Noise• Radiation• Thermal stress• Caught in/on/between; pinch points• Slips/falls• Striking against• Struck by
Biological Hazards	Ergonomic Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bloodborne pathogens• Brucellosis• Building-Related Illness (BRI)• Legionnaires' Disease• Mold• Plant and insect poisons• Tuberculosis (TB)• Water and wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repetition• Forceful exertions• Awkward postures• Contact stress• Vibration• Work area design• Tool or equipment design