Responding to Hazards in the Workplace: An Overview
This slideshow is intended to support safe and healthy workplaces in Nova Scotia.

It is an information and awareness resource that links to the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Division, the Workers’ Compensation Board of Nova Scotia, and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety websites. Hyperlinks to these sites are in blue and underlined.

This slideshow may be downloaded and used to help begin the conversation about workplace health, safety and injury prevention.
Welcome!

Responding to hazards is at the foundation of workplace health and safety measures. Effective response includes awareness and understanding of:

• What happens when a hazard is seen
• What happens when a hazard report is received
• Factors that can influence hazard response
• Meeting Internal Responsibility System obligations
What are hazards? What is hazard response?

- **A hazard is** any source of potential damage, harm or adverse health effects on something or someone under certain conditions at work. A hazard can cause harm to people and to organizations.

- **Health hazards** may endanger a workers’ physical health and are chemical, physical, ergonomic and/or biological.

- **Safety hazards** may cause physical injury or property damage and arise due to machinery, energy, material handling and/or work practices.

Hazard response includes actions taken and control measures put in place when a hazard is identified.
## Responding to hazards:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For our safety and others’</td>
<td><strong>Employees</strong></td>
<td>As soon as hazard is identified</td>
<td><strong>Procedure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>To exercise safety rights</strong></td>
<td><strong>Managers</strong></td>
<td>As soon as hazard is reported</td>
<td><strong>Identification tools</strong></td>
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<td><strong>To meet safety responsibilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Supervisors</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reporting tools</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Employers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other workplace parties</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Placing proper controls</strong></td>
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*For our safety and others’:
  - To exercise safety rights
  - To meet safety responsibilities*
Responding when a hazard is **seen**, and responding when a hazard is **reported** needs:

- Clear plans
- Good supervision
- Proper tools including:
  - Policy
  - **Programs/plans**
  - **Forms**
  - Follow up
  - **Training**
  - Ongoing evaluation
  - **Safety leadership**
Three Areas of hazard control

1. At the source (control/s at/on the hazard)

2. Along the path (between hazard & worker)

3. At the worker (controls on the worker)

Proper control has assessment and measures from each area.
**Three Methods** of hazard control

1. **Engineering** (eliminate, substitute, isolate at the hazard)

2. **Administrative** (process, procedure, barriers placed between hazard and worker)

3. **Personal protective** (protective clothing, equipment worn by worker)

Proper control has assessment and measures from each area.
Control areas and control methods fit together:

At the Hazard
- Elimination
- Substitution
- Isolation

Along the Path
- Process
- Procedures
- Barriers

At the Worker
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
What can it look like?

At the Hazard

Eliminate (the hazard)
Do we really need this, or need to do this?

Substitute (the hazard) eg.
- non-slip flooring replaces tile
- less harsh cleaners for others
- improved procedures & rules

Isolate (the hazard) eg.
- enclosed working areas
- storage protocols
- company policy & rules

Along the Path

Process, procedures, barriers, including:
- Machine guarding
- Use of guides/push sticks
- Lock-out tags and procedure
- Physical barriers, coverings
- Training
- Supervision
- Safety rules and procedures

At the Worker

PPE is specific to the task and to the worker; includes:
- Clothing and footwear
- Hearing protection
- Head protection
- Eye protection
- Skin protection
- Respiratory protection
- Equipment worn over clothing (eg. harnesses, reflective vests, shields, coverings, aprons, etc.)
Factors that can influence *how* people respond to and control hazards include:

- **Safety climate** * and business **leadership**
- Past responses to hazards and controls
- **Understanding of IRS obligations**
- Levels of workplace training
- **Inter-personal skills, attitudes, values** *
- Labour-management relationships
- Levels of **communication, cooperation**
- Operational stability; precarious employment
To support good and effective hazard response we must always be thinking about:

- What happens when a hazard is seen
- What happens when a hazard is reported
- Factors that can influence reporting and responding
- What controls are needed and then put in place
- How the response meets IRS obligations.
To learn more about responding to hazards and workplace health and safety law please visit:

Nova Scotia LAE Safety Branch and OHS Division

NS OHS Act and Regulations

Government of Canada
Employment & Social Development (ESDC)
What’s next?

What changes could be made in your workplace with this information?

If you’d like more information about workplace health and safety, please view our other injury prevention resources or email info@wcb.gov.ns.ca.
References and Resources:

WCB Nova Scotia:  www.worksafeforlife.ca
WCB Nova Scotia:  www.wcb.ns.ca
Call toll-free  Halifax 1-800-870-3331 and  Sydney 1-800-880-0003
Small Business Safety Toolkit &  Cost Calculator

NS OHS Division:  www.novascotia.ca/lae/healthandsafety
Email:  ohsdivision@gov.ns.ca
Call toll-free:  Nova Scotia 1-800-952-2687 and  902-424-5400


* Slide 11 - Institute for Work and Health
* Slide 11 - University of Regina