

# **Awkward Postures**

# Affected Sectors: All

Hazards	<b>Contributing Factors</b>
Posture	<ul> <li>Being in unnatural positions for extended periods</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Storage heights (too high or too low)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Poor housekeeping causing the body to be in an awkward posture to obtain materials</li> </ul>
Duration	<ul> <li>Fatigue, stiffness in body part in awkward position</li> </ul>

**TIP:** If you need to work in awkward positions, take frequent breaks and stretch affected body parts to reduce stiffness and muscle fatigue.

## **Possible Controls**

#### **Quick Wins**

- Position items at eye level to avoid awkward neck positions.
- Change positions/tasks frequently to reduce exposure.
- Remove clutter or obstacles you may work over or around.

### Long-Term Planning

- Design workstations to eliminate awkward postures.
  - Store frequently used or heavy materials between shoulder and waist height.
  - Select tools that allow the wrist to be in a neutral position.
  - Organize workstations to prevent excessive reaching.