

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:

Why?	Who?	When?	How?
For our safety and others'	<u>Employees</u>	As soon as hazard is <u>identified</u>	<u>Procedure</u>
<u>To exercise safety rights</u>	<u>Managers</u>		<u>Identification tools</u>
<u>To meet safety responsibilities</u>	<u>Supervisors</u>	As soon as hazard is reported	<u>Reporting tools</u>
	<u>Employers</u>		
	<u>Other workplace parties</u>	<u>As required by safety law</u>	<u>Placing proper controls</u>

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:



Elimination

Substitution

Isolation

Process

Procedures

Barriers

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

What can it look like?

At the
Hazard

Along the Path

At the
Worker

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

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

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

View OHS News: www.gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety/ohsnews.asp

Email: ohsdivision@gov.ns.ca

Call toll-free: Nova Scotia 1-800-952-2687 and 902-424-5400

Canadian Centre Occupational Health & Safety: Nova Scotia E-Learning:

http://www.ccohs.ca/catalog/courses_list_nova.php

* Slide 11 - Institute for Work and Health

* Slide 11 - University of Regina