HAZARD IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

COMPREHENSIVE CHECKLIST

A systematic approach to identifying workplace hazards before incidents occur

PURPOSE & HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide provides a comprehensive, category-by-category checklist for identifying workplace hazards across all major risk areas. Use it during Job Hazard Analyses (JHAs), routine safety inspections, pre-task planning, and incident investigations. Check each item that applies, note observations, and use findings to develop appropriate controls and corrective actions.

QUICK RISK RATING REFERENCE

Severity → Probability ↓	High Severity	Medium Severity	Low Severity
High	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM
Medium	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Low	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW

CATEGORY 1: PHYSICAL HAZARDS

1A. Slips, Trips & Falls

☐	Wet, oily, or greasy floor surfaces	☐	Poor lighting in walkways or stairwells
☐	Uneven walking surfaces or floor transitions	☐	Elevated work surfaces without guardrails
☐	Loose rugs, mats, or floor coverings	☐	Cables or hoses across walking paths
☐	Cluttered walkways or obstructed aisles	☐	Ice or snow on exterior walkways
☐	Missing or damaged handrails on stairs	☐	Open floor holes or unmarked excavations

Notes / Observations:

1B. Struck-By / Caught-In Hazards

☐	Falling objects from overhead work or storage	☐	Unguarded moving machine parts (belts, gears, shafts)
☐	Unsecured tools or materials at elevation	☐	Rotating equipment without lockout capability
☐	Moving vehicles, forklifts, or heavy equipment	☐	Pinch points between moving and stationary objects
☐	Swinging loads from cranes or rigging	☐	Compressed spring mechanisms
☐	Flying particles from cutting or grinding	☐	Hydraulic or pneumatic equipment under pressure

Notes / Observations:

1C. Ergonomic Hazards

☐	Repetitive motions (lifting, reaching, twisting)	☐	Whole-body vibration (vehicles, platforms)
☐	Awkward postures or sustained static positions	☐	Poorly designed workstations or seating
☐	Heavy lifting (manual handling > 50 lbs)	☐	Overhead work requiring sustained arm elevation
☐	Forceful gripping or pushing/pulling tasks	☐	Inadequate material handling equipment available
☐	Vibrating tools or equipment (hand-arm vibration)	☐	Extended standing on hard surfaces without mats

Notes / Observations:

1D. Noise & Vibration

☐	Noise levels exceeding 85 dBA (8-hr TWA)	☐	Missing or inadequate hearing protection program
☐	Impact noise from hammering or stamping	☐	Inability to communicate due to noise levels
☐	Equipment without adequate noise shielding	☐	Vibration exposure exceeding daily limits

Notes / Observations:

1E. Temperature Extremes

☐	Heat exposure (hot processes, outdoor summer work)	☐	Contact with hot surfaces, steam, or liquids
☐	Cold exposure (freezers, outdoor winter work)	☐	Contact with cryogenic materials or cold surfaces
☐	Inadequate hydration or rest break schedule	☐	Lack of acclimatization protocol for new workers
☐	Missing heat illness prevention program	☐	Insufficient climate-controlled rest areas

Notes / Observations:

CATEGORY 2: CHEMICAL HAZARDS

2A. Chemical Exposure

☐	Hazardous chemicals in use without SDS on file	☐	Mixing incompatible chemicals (risk of reaction)
☐	Inhalation risk from vapors, fumes, or dust	☐	Lead, asbestos, or silica dust exposure potential
☐	Skin or eye contact risk with corrosives/irritants	☐	Spray painting or coating operations
☐	Flammable or combustible liquids in work area	☐	Unlabeled or improperly labeled containers
☐	Toxic materials without adequate ventilation	☐	Missing or outdated Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

Notes / Observations:

2B. Chemical Storage & Handling

☐	Chemicals stored above eye level	☐	Improper disposal of chemical waste
☐	Incompatible chemicals stored together	☐	Compressed gas cylinders unsecured or uncapped
☐	Inadequate secondary containment for spills	☐	Lack of emergency eyewash/shower stations
☐	Missing spill response kits or materials	☐	Insufficient PPE for chemical handling tasks
☐	Damaged or deteriorating chemical containers	☐	No chemical hygiene or exposure monitoring plan

Notes / Observations:

CATEGORY 3: ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

3A. Electrical Systems & Equipment

☐	Exposed or damaged wiring, cords, or plugs	☐	Energized equipment without LOTO procedures
☐	Missing ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)	☐	Overhead power lines near work areas
☐	Overloaded circuits or daisy-chained power strips	☐	Inadequate clearance around electrical panels (36")
☐	Wet conditions near electrical equipment	☐	Missing arc flash hazard labels or PPE
☐	Unqualified personnel performing electrical work	☐	Temporary wiring used as permanent installation
☐	Missing or illegible panel labeling	☐	Extension cords used in lieu of permanent wiring

Notes / Observations:

CATEGORY 4: FIRE & EXPLOSION HAZARDS

4A. Fire Prevention & Protection

☐	Blocked or obstructed emergency exits	☐	Blocked sprinkler heads or fire suppression systems
☐	Missing, expired, or inaccessible fire extinguishers	☐	Smoking in unauthorized areas
☐	Accumulation of combustible materials or dust	☐	Missing or inadequate fire evacuation plan
☐	Hot work (welding, cutting) without fire watch	☐	Combustible materials near ignition sources
☐	Improperly stored flammable liquids/gases	☐	Inadequate housekeeping (oily rags, debris)
☐	Non-functional or missing fire detection/alarm system	☐	No hot work permit program in place

Notes / Observations:

CATEGORY 5: BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

5A. Biological Exposure

☐	Exposure to bloodborne pathogens (BBP)	☐	Inadequate sanitation facilities or handwashing
☐	Mold or fungal growth in work areas	☐	Work in areas with rodent or pest infestations
☐	Animal or insect bites/stings potential	☐	Handling of medical waste or sharps
☐	Contaminated water or sewage exposure	☐	Lack of BBP exposure control plan
☐	Exposure to infectious diseases or sick workers	☐	Missing vaccination or health surveillance program

Notes / Observations:

CATEGORY 6: WORKING AT HEIGHTS

6A. Fall Protection

☐	Work at heights > 6 feet without fall protection	☐	Aerial lifts operated without proper training
☐	Unprotected floor openings, holes, or skylights	☐	No rescue plan for fall arrest situations
☐	Inadequate scaffold construction or inspection	☐	Rooftop work without perimeter protection
☐	Damaged or uninspected fall protection equipment	☐	Missing fall protection training documentation
☐	Missing guardrails on platforms or mezzanines	☐	Uncontrolled tools or materials at elevation
☐	Improper ladder selection, setup, or condition	☐	Inadequate anchorage points for personal fall arrest

Notes / Observations:

CATEGORY 7: CONFINED SPACES

7A. Confined Space Entry

☐	Permit-required confined spaces not identified	☐	Engulfment hazards (grain, sand, water)
☐	Entry without atmospheric testing (O2, LEL, toxics)	☐	Energy sources not isolated (LOTO) before entry
☐	No confined space entry permit program	☐	Communication system failure between entrant/attendant
☐	Inadequate ventilation during entry operations	☐	No emergency retrieval equipment available
☐	Missing trained attendant or rescue team	☐	Unauthorized or untrained personnel entering spaces

Notes / Observations:

CATEGORY 8: VEHICLE & MOBILE EQUIPMENT HAZARDS

8A. Vehicles, Forklifts & Heavy Equipment

☐	Operators without valid training/certification	☐	Unsecured loads during transport
☐	Pre-operation inspection not performed or documented	☐	Obstructed operator visibility
☐	Backup alarms, lights, or mirrors missing/defective	☐	Operating on slopes or unstable ground
☐	Pedestrian/vehicle traffic not separated	☐	Impaired driving (fatigue, distraction, substances)
☐	Seatbelts not worn or not functional	☐	Missing traffic management plan on site
☐	Loads exceeding vehicle rated capacity	☐	Inadequate vehicle maintenance records

Notes / Observations:

CATEGORY 9: PSYCHOSOCIAL & ORGANIZATIONAL HAZARDS

9A. Workplace Culture & Organization

☐	Workplace violence risk (public-facing, cash handling)	☐	Lack of safety training for new or temporary workers
☐	Working alone or in isolated/remote locations	☐	Language barriers affecting safety communication
☐	Excessive workload or unreasonable time pressure	☐	No system for reporting hazards without retaliation
☐	Inadequate rest breaks or fatigue management	☐	Inadequate emergency communication procedures
☐	Shift work (night shift, rotating schedules)	☐	Missing or outdated emergency action plan

Notes / Observations:

CATEGORY 10: ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL HAZARDS

10A. Weather, Terrain & Environmental

☐	Lightning risk during outdoor operations	☐	Poor air quality (wildfire smoke, dust storms)
☐	High wind exposure (cranes, scaffolding, roofing)	☐	Work near bodies of water without rescue equipment
☐	UV exposure for outdoor workers	☐	Unstable soil or excavation cave-in potential
☐	Flood, mudslide, or water accumulation risk	☐	Wildlife encounters (snakes, bears, insects)
☐	Earthquake preparedness (seismic zones)	☐	Stormwater or environmental contamination risk

Notes / Observations:

INSPECTION SUMMARY & SIGN-OFF

Location / Job Site:		**Date of Inspection:**	
Inspector Name:		**Title / Position:**	
Total Hazards Identified:		**Critical (High) Hazards:**	

Corrective Actions Required

#	Hazard Description	Priority	Assigned To	Target Date	Status
1					
2					
3					
4					

Inspector Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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Questions? Contact us at (425) 242-5357 or visit www.firstunderwriters.com