The 6 Biggest Threats to Workplace Safety

The most common causes of workplace accidents, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), fall into one of these categories:

1. SAFETY HAZARDS
Unsafe conditions that can cause injury or even death, such as: spills and tripping hazards, working from height, unguarded and moving machinery parts, electrical hazards, and confined spaces.

2. PHYSICAL HAZARDS
Factors within the environment that can harm employees even without direct contact, such as: radiation, exposure to ultraviolet rays, extreme temperatures, and constant loud noises.

3. BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS
Hazards associated with animals, people, or infectious plant materials. Things like: bodily fluids, fungi and mold, bacteria and viruses, poisonous plants, insect bites, and animal droppings.

4. CHEMICAL HAZARDS
Dangers caused by exposure to any chemical preparation, such as: cleaning products, paints, pesticides, gases, flammable materials, vapors or fumes.

5. ERGONOMIC HAZARDS
Caused by certain body positions and working conditions, such as: frequent or heavy lifting, poor posture, repetitive movements, using too much force, vibrations, or improperly adjusted workstations.

6. ORGANIZATIONAL HAZARDS
Stressors or hazards associated with workplace issues that cause long- or short-term effects: Heavy workloads, high intensity or fast-paced work, stressful interactions, and workplace violence.

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