

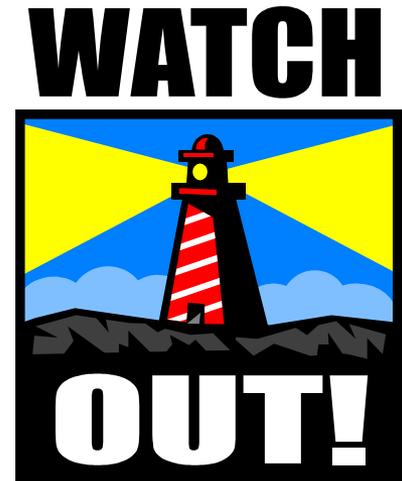
Occupational Health and Safety Act Hazards in the Workplace

Recognizing Hazards

A hazard is anything that can hurt you or the people you supervise or work with.

There is a hazard at the root of almost every workplace death, injury or sickness. A hazard can take many forms. Sometimes more than one hazard combines with others to create an even larger hazard.

Both supervisors and workers need to understand the work and hazards associated with it.



What is Hazard Recognition?

Both supervisors and workers need to understand the work and hazards associated with it. Supervisors are more involved in the process of hazard recognition and control

Hazard Recognition means:

- Noting a 'suspected' hazard, because of its potential harm or damage
- Having it brought to supervisor's attention by a worker.
- Initiating protection through control measures and evaluating how they are working.

How can Supervisors Recognize Hazards?

Supervisors recognize hazards by:

- Observing the work as it's being done
- Talking to staff about their work and the areas where the work happens
- Participating in workplace inspections
- Listening to the concerns employees have about the work they're doing
- Conducting a hazard assessment

What is a Hazard Assessment?

A hazard assessment is used to evaluate the degree of risk and exposure to the suspected or identified hazard.

To conduct a hazard assessment the supervisor can:

- Do a detailed inspection and/or testing of the hazard
- Do a physical observation by trained individuals
- Look at incident investigations or near misses
- Interview workers
- Review records (e.g., joint health and safety committee meeting minutes)



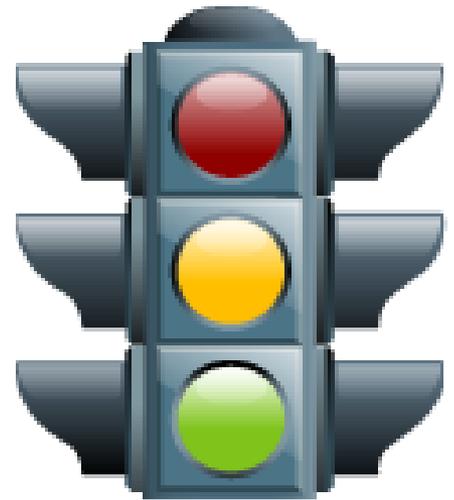
What are Hazard Controls?

- If a hazard is identified, the supervisor can implement **hazard controls**.
- Hazard control means eliminating the hazard or minimizing it so it won't cause injury to the worker.



Methods for Hazard Control

- Control methods can be applied at three different points:
- **At the source of the hazard:** Strategies include use of engineering controls, isolation, elimination or substitution of the hazard with the less hazardous processes, materials or equipment.
- **Along the path** between the source and the worker: this is the next best solution that uses strategies such as ventilation, worker enclosures, barriers or distance from the hazard.
- **At the worker:** Strategies involve use of personal protective equipment and administrative controls.



How Effective are the Hazard Control Measures?

Supervisors should do a hazard evaluation to assess if the hazard controls and measures are Working.

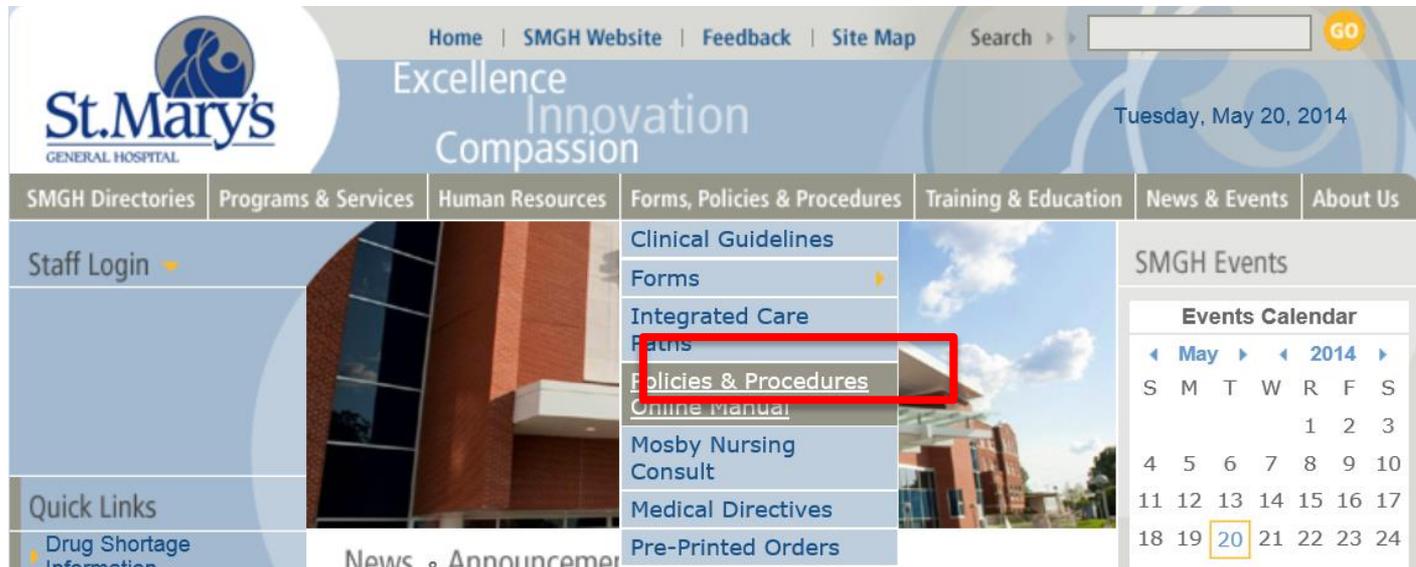
Supervisors can evaluate if controls are working by:

- Talking about the work to the workers who report to them.
- Observing how they do their work.
- Listening to what they say and look for ways to improve health and safety.



To Learn More About Hazards

Review the Health and Safety Policies and Procedures located on the Intranet under Policies/Procedures.



The screenshot shows the St. Mary's General Hospital website navigation menu. The main navigation bar includes links for Home, SMGH Website, Feedback, Site Map, and a Search box. The date Tuesday, May 20, 2014 is displayed. The navigation menu is organized into several categories: SMGH Directories, Programs & Services, Human Resources, Forms, Policies & Procedures, Training & Education, News & Events, and About Us. The 'Forms, Policies & Procedures' category is expanded, showing a list of links: Clinical Guidelines, Forms, Integrated Care Paths, Policies & Procedures (highlighted with a red box), Online Manual, Mosby Nursing Consult, Medical Directives, and Pre-Printed Orders. A 'Staff Login' link is also visible. On the right side, there is an 'SMGH Events' section with an 'Events Calendar' for May 2014, showing the date 20 highlighted.

Events Calendar						
May		2014				
S	M	T	W	R	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

To Learn More About Hazards

You must complete WHMIS training yearly in order to ensure that you can safely handle use, store or dispose of hazardous chemicals. **Have you completed your WHMIS for 2017?**

If you are required to use equipment (e.g. safety needles), you must ensure that you are instructed on how to use it appropriately.

Training can be specific to your job task, or general such as emergency preparedness



Report Any Hazards Immediately

In a safe and healthy workplace, everyone knows about hazards.

If you see a hazard on the job or a 'close call', **report it to your manager immediately.**

Complete an employee hazard/incident report

Managers need to ensure that if a worker under his/her supervision is involved in an incident, that proper investigation takes place and corrective actions are acted upon.



Potential Hazards at SMGH

- Ergonomic (muskolskeletal – MSD)
- Slip/trip/fall
- Workplace violence
- Biological
- Chemical



Musculoskeletal Hazards

A Musculoskeletal (MSD) hazard occurs when you are repeating the same movements over and over, especially if you are in an awkward position or you use a lot of force.

Think of someone who bends down all day, or someone who lifts heavy things over and over again, especially above the shoulders or below the knees, and with improper body postures.

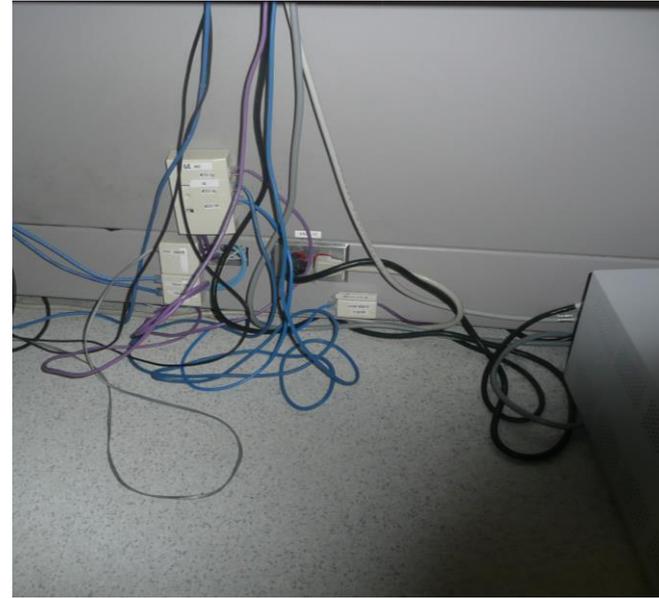


An overfilled linen bag can lead to over-exertion and injury.

Slip/Trip & Fall Hazards



Call bell cord tied around the bed rail (should be clipped to linen).



Cord management – these cords should be secured

Workplace Violence

Potential sources of violence in a hospital include staff, patients, and visitors. Some examples of workplace violence include:

- Leaving threatening notes or sending threatening emails.
- Hitting, punching, shoving, yelling
- Harassment and bullying
- Verbally threats, shaking a fist, blocking someone's movements.



Bloodborne Exposure



Staff accidentally poking themselves with a needle infected with HIV or Hepatitis B or C is known as a bloodborne exposure.

Scented Products/Biological Hazards



Scented products are hazardous to staff who have sensitivities to scents and respiratory concerns. St. Mary's is a scent free environment.



Food and drink are not allowed in Clinical areas to protect staff from germs.

Unsafe Equipment Handling



Unsecured oxygen tanks



Slip/Trip and Fall Hazards



Using inappropriate ladders or stools to access items overhead can be a hazard.



Clutter and poor housekeeping can create trip and fall hazards.

Security/Fall Hazards



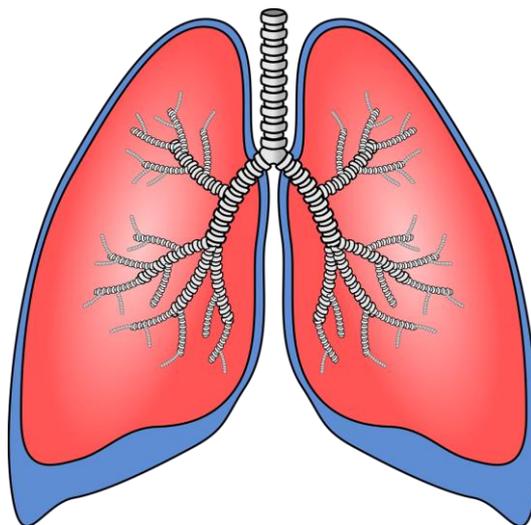
Propping open doors is a security issue and is not allowed at St. Mary's.



Heavy items stored unsafely can fall and injure workers.

Asbestos

When asbestos fibers become brittle (friable) they can become airborne and inhaled into the lung, causing potentially significant health problems after prolonged inhalation.



Exposure to Asbestos

Some areas inside St. Mary's contain asbestos. Most asbestos is contained within the ceilings, walls and floors and does not pose a hazard to staff unless it is disturbed.

One area that contains exposed asbestos is the piping located in the basement hallway between MDRD and Shipping and Stores.



Asbestos

The Engineering Department monitors the exposed asbestos areas on a regular basis to ensure there has been no deterioration over time.

If you suspect that asbestos has been disturbed, contact Engineering Services at ext. 3022 (during the day) or switchboard at ext. 0 during off hours. Switchboard will contact engineering staff who are on-call to resolve the issue.



Occupational Illness

Work-related illnesses develop over a period of time due to workplace conditions. Such conditions might include exposure to:

- **physical** (noise, vibration, radio frequency)
- **biological** (viruses, bacteria, mould)
- **chemical** (formaldehyde, silica, asbestos) agents.
- Examples of occupational illnesses include: occupational asthma, dermatitis, noise-induced hearing loss, silicosis, certain types of cancer, infectious or communicable diseases

All occupational illnesses are reportable to Ministry of Labour within a specific period of time.

Thank You

Thank you for completing this module.

