

Types of Hazard

This chart divides workplace hazards into broad categories, then gives examples of each. Organisations can use the chart to help identify the hazards specific to a particular site or event. The chart has been adapted by the Environment Network Manawatu from a NZ Landcare Trust list. It is not meant to be exhaustive, but merely to give examples in each of the categories.

Hazard Type	General Examples	Site / Event Hazards
Mechanical	Entanglement Cutting Impact Crushing Entrapment Fluid injection	
Electrical	Unauthorised wiring Unserviceable power tools Unsafe extension cables Outside power outlets Water	
Biological	Animals Plants Insects Bacteria Viruses Fungi Parasites Enzymes Infected materials Body fluids	
Ergonomic	Repetition Weight Posture Work patterns Seating Manual handling	
Environmental	Noise Temperature – hot/cold Vibration Light levels Humidity Ventilation Weather conditions Confined space Pressure/vacuum	

Hazard Type	General Examples	Site / Event Hazards
Organisational	Lack of supervision Lack of training Lack of instruction Poor maintenance Hours of work Work load Unsafe systems Unsuitable equipment Inadequate monitoring	
Chemical	Gases/vapour/fumes Spray/aerosol/mist Smoke Dust Acids/alkalis Solvent/paint/resin Carcinogens Toxins Irritant/sensitizers	
Psychological	Stress Shift work Work load Drugs Alcohol	
Radiation	Ionising/non-ionising Lasers Microwaves UV/infrared Computer monitor	
Transport	Lack of maintenance Hours of work Weather conditions Road/traffic conditions Other drivers	
Access	Confined space Obstruction Uneven surfaces Height Moving objects	
The Person	Not suited to task Unsafe behaviour Lack of concentration Long hours High work load	