TOOLBOX TALK

General Information

Nearly every task we attempt has associated risks or hazards. To minimize these risks most individuals, make a conscious effort to be aware of situations around them that may cause harm. A Pre-Task Planning (PTP) focus on the relationship between a worker, the task to be performed, the work environment, and the equipment and tools related to the task. The PTP process may seem simple but the benefits of performing it correctly are exponential, such as lowering the number of injuries or incidents that may occur. In order to correctly perform a PTP, the following three steps must be completed.

- Identify the steps needed to complete task
- Pinpoint possible hazards that may occur in each step
- Eliminate or reduce the severity of the hazards that may occur



PTP Hazard Types

When performing PTP it is important to identify hazards that may cause harm or injury to individuals involved in the tasks. When Identifying hazards, the following list may help to pinpoint issues.

- Is there a danger of striking or being struck by an object?
- Is there a danger of being caught in, by, or between objects?
- Is there danger of slipping, tripping, or falling?
- Can pushing, puling, lifting, bending, or twisting cause strain?
- Is there danger of harm to eyes, hands, feet, or other part of a worker's body?

There are a variety of hazards that may be presented and can be categorized as: chemical, physical, biological, and ergonomic. The list below provides example hazards associated with each category.

Chemical Hazards	Physical Hazards	Ergonomics Hazards	Biological Hazards
 Inhalation 	 Electrical 	 Repetition 	Bloodborne pathogens
 Skin contact 	 Fire/Explosion 	• Forceful exertions	 Brucellosis
 Absorption 	 Noise 	 Awkward postures 	 Building-related illness
 Injection 	 Slips/Falls 	 Contact stress 	 Legionnaires' disease
 Ingestion 	 Struck by/Against 	 Vibration 	 Mold
	 Radiation 	 Work area design 	 Plant & insect poisons
	 Thermal stress 	 Tool or equipment 	 Tuberculosis
	 Pinch points 	design	 Water (grey & black) & waste water