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HAZARD CONTROLS IN THE WORKPLACE



There are five kinds of hazard control within the hierarchy of controls in the construction workplace. Different controls are applied to different situations, and there are times in which using certain controls is not possible. Most of the time, though, it is recommended to operate according to the hierarchy of controls. They are listed from one to five, with one being the least effective and five being the most effective.

1



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

PPE is the last line of defense against hazards in the construction site. This includes attire such as helmets, protective eyewear, boots and others. When properly executed, the hierarchy of controls should not rely on PPE for protection.



ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

These are policies implemented by those in charge that change the way people do their jobs. This can be a double-edged sword depending on the kind of task in question, as it may hinder workers' efficiency on a given project.

2



ENGINEERING CONTROLS

These kind of controls involve separating the workers from hazards to keep them safe. These typically come in the form of building design or modification in effort to reduce employees' exposure to the hazard.

3



ELIMINATION

Far and away the most effective means of hazard control is to eliminate the hazard from the workplace completely. Unfortunately, there are instances in which this is not possible, in which case substitution is itself the best substitution.

5



SUBSTITUTION

This one is self-explanatory. If something in the construction site is a hazard, one of the most effective ways to solve the issue is to substitute the problematic equipment or material with new, intact versions.

4

It is important to be familiar with these methods of handling construction workplace hazards for your sake and the sake of your coworkers and/or employees. More information on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) hierarchy of controls is available here.

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