Community-Based Learning: Workplace Health & Safety

Hazard Identification and Control

Workplace Hazards and Preventing Injury

Hazard Identification
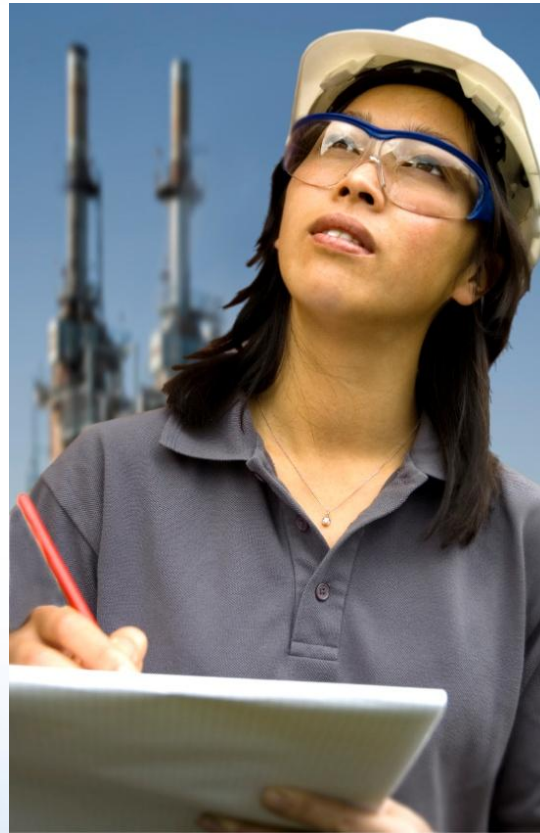
Hazard Classes

Contributing Factors

Hazard Reporting

Hazard Analysis

Hazard Control

Hazard Identification

How do I know if something at work is a hazard?

- Could it burn you?
- Is it more than 3 metres up?
- Does it have sharp or pointy bits?
- Could it crush or squish you?
- Does it have poison symbols?
- Are there teeth?
- Is there bad attitude?
- Is it the same action over & over & over & over?

All work has hazards!

The goal of hazard identification is to make the workplace and employees as safe as possible.

It's an ongoing program that includes hazard identification, reporting, analysis and controls.

All hazards fall into one or more of five classes. Understanding the classes can help us work safer!

Hazard Classes

Hazards are in 5 main classes!

Physical

- Things, or energy sources

- Electricity
- Noise and vibration
- Extreme hot & cold
- Radiation
- Machinery
- Slippery floors

- Examples?

Chemical

- Natural
- Manufactured

- Liquids
- Gases
- Vapours
- Solids
- Particulates

- Examples?

Biological

- Bacteria
- Viruses

- Insects
- Animals
- Plants & fungi
- People

- Examples?

Ergonomic

- Task design
- Work process
- Work area design
- Work surfaces
- Lighting
- Awkward posture
- Body force: lift & moving
- Repetitive movements
- Examples?

Psycho-Social

- Influence of individual & group feelings & interactions

- Stress
- Nervousness
- Anger
- Personal attitudes /beliefs
- Examples?

Hazards: Contributing Factors

"PEME"

What are your PEME examples?

People

The actions people take or don't take can create hazards in the workplace.

Process

People design Process. Process is how tasks are done; improving process can mean improving safety.

Equipment

Look for unsafe or unhealthy conditions with tools and machines.

Properly fitted personal protective Equipment!

The proper tool for the job!

Materials

Improper handling, or wrong type, of materials, products or equipment.

Environment

The condition of work areas, temperature, overcrowding, dirty. poor lighting or ventilation.

Hazard Reporting

Hazard Identification by Reporting

- Reporting hazards is a 1st step to workplace safety!

- **Reporting hazards** comes through

   - **Worker reports**

   - **Safety inspections** of work areas

   - **Investigation** reports

- Employers must have a way for workers to report hazards, and a way for supervisors and the employer to follow up on them.

- Workers must report workplace hazards. Even if they aren't sure whether it's a "real" hazard or not!

- **Reporting is a part of the Internal Responsibility System. Everyone shares in the responsibility for identifying, reporting & controlling hazards!**
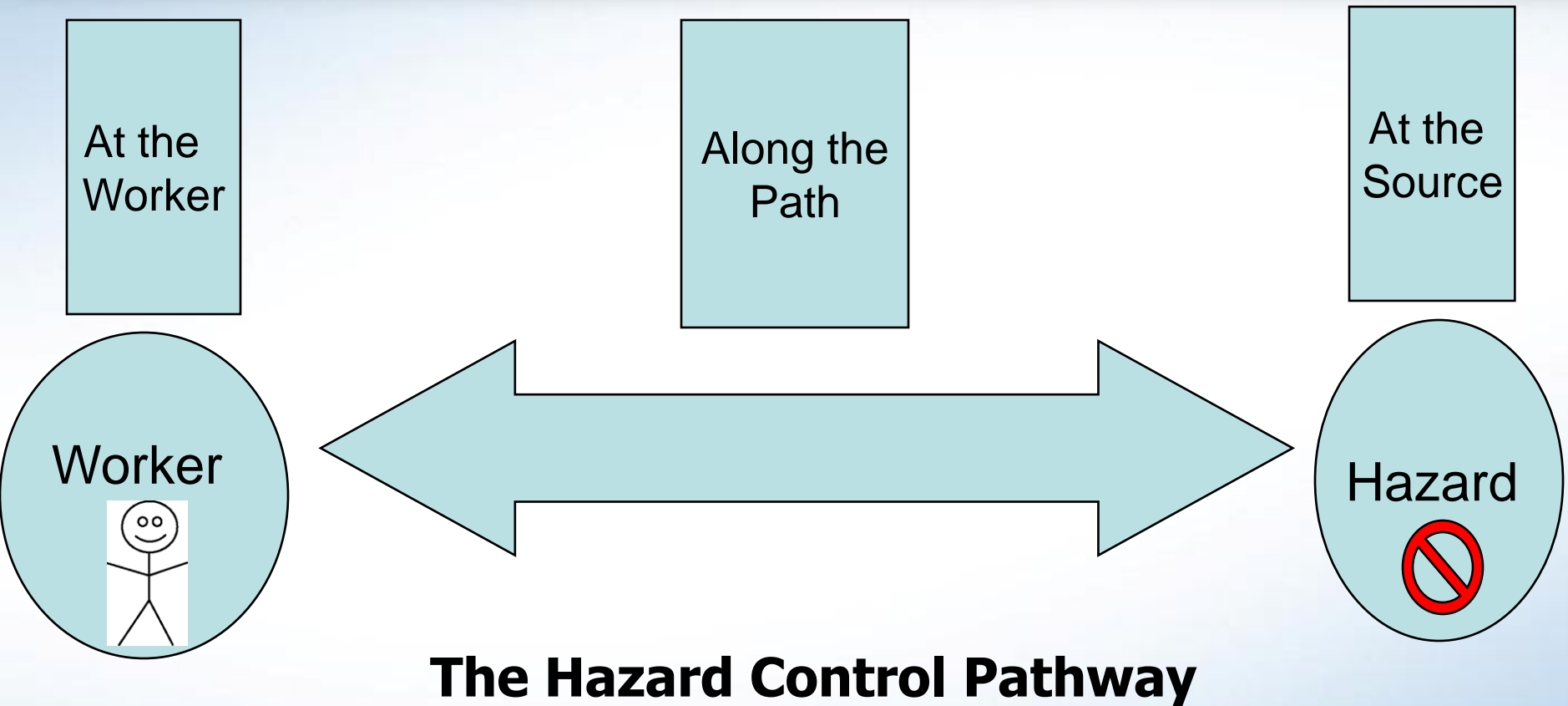
Hazard Analysis

Hazard Analysis = Safe Work Procedure!

Controlling a hazard requires us to understand it. **Analyzing** it allows us to understand it. Understanding it means we can write procedure to **work safely** around it.

Pick a item/task/process that everyone is somewhat familiar with. Work together on an analysis <u>and</u> safe work procedure for that task!

1. Select the item/task/process to be analyzed
2. Break it into a sequence of steps.
3. Watch an experienced worker do that task. (Pretend!)
4. Identify immediate or potential hazards at each step.
5. Decide on hazard controls and put them in place (see "Hazard Controls")
6. Write the steps in a safe work procedure, and train workers!
   (How will you train people?)

Hazard Control

At the Worker

Along the Path

At the Source

Worker

Hazard

The Hazard Control Pathway

The Three Points of the Hazard Control Pathway!

After a hazard has been identified, reported, and analyzed, it's necessary to **control** it! Controls look different in different workplaces and on different hazards, but they can only be placed in 3 ways:

1. **At the Source**: at the hazard itself, eliminate, substitute or isolate it

2. **Along the Path:** barriers between the worker & the hazard

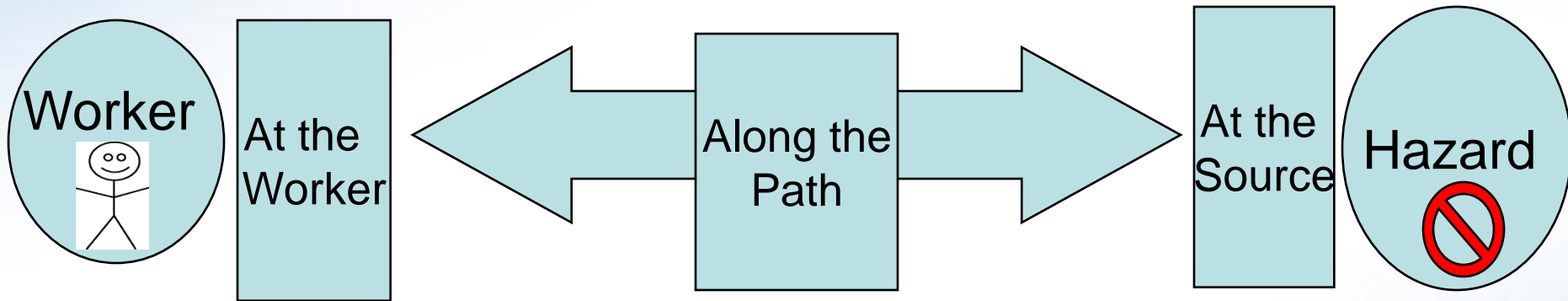3. **At the Worker:** at the worker him/herself, often something worn

What do you think is the safest place on the path? Why?

What do you think is the most commonly used place on the path? Why?

Could controls 'live' in more than one place? What kinds?

Fill in some examples!

What could controls look like on each path?

Worker → At the Worker ← Along the Path → At the Source → Hazard

Identify, report and control hazards. We all have a responsibility!

Reporting hazards & unsafe things!

(1) Tell your supervisor about unsafe things!

(2) If you're hurt at work, tell your supervisor! Employers are responsible to have a first aid station, and to make sure you have proper first aid.

(3) If you need to see a doctor for your workplace injury or illness, make sure you tell her or him how it happened at work! Most workers in Nova Scotia have access to WCB benefits.

(4) If the workplace doesn't do anything about unsafe situations, and if you're worried that more people will get hurt, call the **OHS Division** of Labour & Workforce Dev. at **1-800-952-2687**. **Tell them about it.**

Hazard ID & Control: Where for more info?

Your supervisor, and:

NS. Labour & Advanced Education: OHS Division

www.gov.ns.ca/lae/healthandsafety

1-800-952-2687 (The 'Hotline')

WCB Nova Scotia

www.worksafeforlife.ca

www.somanyways.ca

www.wcb.ns.ca

1-800-870-3331

Canadian Centre of Occupational Health & Safety

www.ccohs.ca