

## The theme this month is HAZARD RECOGNITION

The reporting and recording of observable actions within the workplace are vital steps in protecting workers and businesses, as well as complying with the law. It helps focus on the risk with the potential to cause real harm.

Typical hazards in the plastic industry are:

1. Strains and sprains from manual handling product and material
2. Burns from heat exposure
3. Unintended contact with rotating equipment
4. Lacerations and fractures from pinch points, sharp contact points, and improper use of hand tools
5. Electrical shock during equipment repair and troubleshooting



Effective hazard control starts with:

1. **Recognizing and Understanding the Hazard** – Determine what hazards are in the workplace by conducting facility risk assessments, task risk assessments, or job safety analysis.
2. **Assessments** - Use a risk matrix to prioritize the consequences associated with the risks.
3. **Control** – Implement a strategy to eliminate or reduce the risk based on priority.
4. **Documentation** – Risk and hazard assessments should be documented and shared throughout the organization. Impacted employees and supervisors should sign off on the assessment acknowledging the hazards of the job and controls in place to reduce risk.
5. **Following Up** – Risk assessments should be included in a management of change process and revisited if an environmental, physical, or process condition could pose a new hazard. It is a living document that should be updated and communicated regularly.

		Probability				Frequency
		Remote (0)	Unlikely (1)	Likely (2)	Very Likely (3)	
Hazard Severity	Minor (0) No injury can be foreseen	0	1	2	3	Non-Existent (0) No exposure to employees
	Moderate (1) An injury requiring only minor first aid	2	3	4	5	Low (1) Rare or possible employee exposure
	Serious (2) Moderate to severe injury requiring medical treatment or hospitalization	4	5	6	7	Medium (2) Routine employee exposure weekly
	Catastrophic (3) Disabling injury to fatality	6	7	8	9	High (3) Routine employee exposure daily

  

0 to 3 "LOW"	May be acceptable; however, review task to see if risk can be reduced further.
4 to 6 "MEDIUM"	Task should only proceed with appropriate management authorization after consultation with specialist personnel and assessment team. Where possible, the task should be redefined to take account of the hazards involved or the risk should be reduced further prior to task commencement.
7 to 9 "HIGH"	Task must not proceed. It should be redefined or further control implemented in task.

**Risk Matrix Example**



## SAFETY BULLETIN – MAY 2022

The Stop Work Process	
<b>STOP</b>	Stop the task when you see an unsafe act, condition or omission that could result in an incident.
<b>Correct</b>	If it is determined that it is safe to proceed with the task, resume the work. If not, resolve the issue!
<b>Notify</b>	Notify all affected persons of the issue. If it cannot be immediately resolved contact the next level manager or HSE.
<b>Resume</b>	Resume the task once the correction of the issue has been agreed to. Additional investigation or corrective actions may be required.

Promote Stop Work as a last line of defense to prevent employee exposure to hazards. All employees have the authority and obligation to stop any task or operation where concerns or questions regarding the control of safety risk exist.

### **Reminder - Recordable Tracking and Sharing of Corrective Actions:**

PPI is encouraging your company to participate in this monthly report. Background on this process and the template are attached for your reference. Questions should be directed to David Fink at [dfink@plasticpipe.org](mailto:dfink@plasticpipe.org). We look forward to your company's participation so that together we can support each other in continuous improvement of our safety performance.