**Categories of Workplace Hazards**

Why do we categorize things?

1. Physical
2. Chemical
3. Biological
4. Ergonomic
5. Psycho-social
6. **Physical**

A hazard that you can see, hear, touch that doesn’t fit into one of the other categories

* Broken hammer
* Shoddy equipment (chain saw, harness)
* Electricity
* Noise
* Extreme hot and cold
* Improperly employed or handled equipment

1. **Chemical**

Chemical hazards are any chemical that can cause harm to you.

What is a chemical?

a compound or substance that has been purified or prepared, especially artificially

Ex: Chlorine bleach, hydrochloric acid, gasoline, diesel fuel, Lysol, motor oil

1. **Biological**

Anything organic in nature (made by nature) that contains elements that can cause harm

Ex: Virus, bacteria, venoms, moulds, spores, fungos, pathogens (blood, saliva, etc)

1. **Ergonomic**

Any mechanism of injury that causes physical damage to body tissue over time

Ex: Repetitive Strain Injuries (hammering, typing, haying, power saw, driving a truck, driving screws, running heavy equipment, playing an instrument…)

Inactivity Strain (sitting, standing in one spot, …)

1. **Psycho-Social**

Things that affect you emotionally that result from interactions with others or dealing with your own emotions.

Ex: Bullying, PTSD, harassment