

## Worksite Hazard/Risk Mapping

Purpose: to identify, describe, and analyze hazards in the worksite.

Definition: A hazard/risk map is a drawing of a workplace or part of a workplace; on the drawing, workers identify the actual/potential hazards and unhealthy conditions that could cause injuries/illnesses for workers. There is no one who knows more about the potential/actual hazards and concerns in a work site than the workers who deal with them every day. The mapping activity allows workers to get actively involved in identifying and then minimizing/eliminating these hazards and help themselves and the organization to achieve their goals of a safe and healthy work environment.

Activity: May be done at the start of a health and safety training program or after you have discussed each hazard.

- A. Break into small groups – 4 or 5 individuals to a group.
- B. Give each group: One piece of flip chart paper, flip chart marker(black or blue), “sticky dots” in three different colors (green, red, blue), access to masking tape, and the color code for the “dots”.
- C. Tell the participants that the risk map is a map of their workplace or a section of the workplace which shows the location of particular hazards that cause or could cause or contribute to workers being injured on the job.
- D. Have the group draw a basic floor plan of where they work, with corridors/hallways, entrances/exits, resident rooms, supply areas, kitchen/dining areas, bathing/shower rooms, nurses station, offices, etc.
- E. Using GREEN dots, have the groups mark each area that could have a SAFETY hazard: electrical hazards, blocked aisles/corridors, slippery floors, fire safety hazards, etc.
- F. Using RED dots, have the groups mark HEALTH hazards: noise, chemicals, bloodborne pathogens, other potentially infectious material, temperature extremes (too hot, too cold), etc.
- G. Using BLUE dots, have the groups mark ERGONOMIC hazards such as: awkward positions, heavy lifting/difficult moving, repetitive motion, shoulder/arm injuries, back injuries, carpal tunnel (wrist injury), etc.
- H. Give the groups 10-15 minutes to do their maps with the dots.
- I. Have the groups prepared to present their map to the whole group.

### Potential Post-Activity Discussion Points:

1. What are the main health and safety concerns?
2. Where are the most common work injuries you have heard of?
3. What changes/processes are in place to prevent injuries?
4. What suggestions do they have to further minimize or eliminate these hazards?