

Examples of Risks By Sector

This guide provides examples of common health and safety risks across different sectors. The guide has been developed to help Accredited SafePlus Assessors engage with businesses and identify and agree upon three key 'deep dive' risks to be considered when using the SafePlus Onsite Assessment and Advisory Service.

The risks are common examples only and the sector lists are not intended to describe all of the risks that businesses in any given sector may face. Some businesses will identify health and safety risks that are not on their sector's list, but are still very relevant to them and may be better priorities for their SafePlus assessment.

These lists of risks were developed with the support of workplace injury and harm statistics and research and advice from government agencies involved in regulating and insuring these sectors.



MAKING HEALTH AND SAFETY WORK

CONSTRUCTION

Safety Risks

- **Moving objects** – e.g. trucks, mobile/lifting plant, forklifts, tools and machine parts
- **Falling from height**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from heights)
- **Being electrocuted** – e.g. striking underground wires, severing cables, contact with overhead lines
- **Falling objects** – e.g. falling box, storage container, tools
- **Confined space entry** – e.g. gases, chemicals or moving machine parts
- **Collapsing structures or excavation**
- **Burning from hot works** – e.g. welding, grinding and cutting tasks
- **Fire explosion** – e.g. striking gas pipe, released uncontrolled gas

Health Risks

- **Exposure to airborne contaminants** – e.g. silica/wood/asbestos dust, diesel, solvents
- **Gradual onset conditions** – e.g. noise, skin irritants, musculoskeletal, skin cancer
- **Heat stress** – e.g. sunburn, dehydration

Catastrophic Risks

- **Collapsing structures or excavations**
- **Fire explosion** – e.g. striking gas pipe, released uncontrolled gas
- **Confined space entry** – e.g. gases, chemicals or moving machine parts

MANUFACTURING

Safety Risks

- **Moving objects** – e.g. mobile/lifting plant, trucks, forklifts, conveyors, tools and machine parts
- **Falling from height**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from height)
- **Being electrocuted** – e.g. damaged cables and electrical equipment
- **Falling objects** – e.g. falling box, storage container, tools
- **Uncontrolled release of pressure** – e.g. hydraulics, steam
- **Exposure to harmful substances** – e.g. toxic chemicals

Health Risks

- **Exposure to airborne contaminants** – e.g. pesticides, welding fumes, formaldehyde, silica/wood/asbestos dust, diesel, solvents
- **Gradual onset conditions** – e.g. noise, skin irritants, musculoskeletal, fatigue and temperature extremes

Catastrophic Risks

- **Uncontrolled release of pressure** – e.g. hydraulics, steam
- **Exposure to harmful substances** – e.g. toxic chemicals
- **Exposure to airborne contaminants** – e.g. asbestos dust

TRANSPORT (COMMERCIAL)

Safety Risks

- **Moving objects** – e.g. tools, machine parts, mobile/lifting plant or machinery, trucks, forklifts or shifting loads
- **Falling objects**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from height)
- **Hitting stationary objects** – e.g. crushing limbs, abrasions, contusions
- **Driving** – e.g. moving loads, road collisions, driving error
- **Working alone** – e.g. long-haul in remote locations
- **Being electrocuted** – e.g. striking underground wires, severing cables, contact with overhead lines

Health Risks

- **Exposure to airborne contaminants** – e.g. vehicle fumes, solvents, asbestos
- **Gradual onset conditions** – e.g. noise, skin irritants, obesity, musculoskeletal, fatigue and skin cancer

Catastrophic Risks

- **Driving** – e.g. moving loads, road collisions, driving error
- **Exposure to airborne contaminants** – e.g. asbestos dust

WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION

Safety Risks

- **Moving objects** – e.g. mobile/lifting plant trucks, forklifts, tools, machine parts, unsafe or shifting loads
- **Falling from height**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from height)
- **Hitting stationary objects** – e.g. striking overhead object, hitting corner of object
- **Falling objects** – e.g. falling storage container, box, pallet, or racking
- **Working alone** – e.g. in small-hours shift situations
- **Harmful substances** – e.g. toxic, acidic, flammable and explosive chemicals
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning** – exhausts from mobile lifting plant, trucks or forklifts

Health Risks

- **Airborne exposure contaminants** – e.g. vehicle fumes, solvents
- **Gradual onset conditions** – e.g. noise, skin irritants, skin cancer, musculoskeletal, fatigue and temperature extremes

Catastrophic Risks

- **Falling objects** – e.g. falling storage container, box, pallet, or racking
- **Harmful substances** – e.g. toxic, acidic, flammable and explosive chemicals
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning** – exhausts from mobile lifting plant, trucks or forklifts

POSTAL

Safety Risks

- **Moving objects** – e.g. mobile/lifting plant and machinery, trucks and forklifts
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from heights)
- **Falling objects** – e.g. falling box, container
- **Driving** – e.g. moving loads, road collisions, driver error
- **Being attacked by animals** – e.g. dogs
- **Working alone** – e.g. in public-facing situations

Health Risks

- **Exposure to airborne contaminants** – e.g. vehicle fumes
- **Gradual onset conditions** – e.g. skin cancer from sun exposure

Catastrophic Risks

- **Driving** – e.g. moving loads, road collisions, driver error

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (GOVERNMENT)

Safety Risks

- **Moving objects** – e.g. mobile/lifting plant and machinery, such as forklifts, trolleys and conveyors
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Hitting stationary objects** – e.g. crushing limbs, abrasions, contusions
- **Falling objects**
- **Verbal/physical aggression** – e.g. in public-facing situations
- **Working alone** – e.g. in remote, public-facing situations
- **Biohazard exposure**

Health Risks

- **Work-related stress**
- **Gradual onset conditions** – e.g. noise, musculoskeletal and fatigue

Catastrophic Risks

- **Biohazard exposure**

AGRICULTURE

Safety Risks

- **Moving vehicles** – e.g. quad bike or motor bike, tractor
- **Moving light machinery** – e.g. self-moving plant, chain saw, machine part
- **Hit by animals**
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from heights)
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Hitting stationary objects** – e.g. crushing limbs, abrasions, contusions
- **Falling objects** – e.g. hay bales, fence posts
- **Working alone** – e.g. in remote situations
- **Biohazard exposure** – e.g. Leptospirosis from infected animal
- **Mishandled toxins/chemical/fuels** – e.g. petrol, LPG, diesel, pesticide, herbicide, fertiliser, veterinary medicine
- **Being electrocuted** – e.g. striking underground wires, severing cables, contact with overhead lines

Health Risks

- **Work-related stress** – e.g. fatigue, lack of sleep, alcohol and drug use
- **Exposure to airborne contaminants** – e.g. animal/dirt/manure dust, exhaust fumes, agrichemical sprays/dust
- **Gradual onset condition** – e.g. farm machinery noise causing hearing loss, skin irritants, skin cancer from sun exposure and musculoskeletal

Catastrophic Risks

- **Driving** – e.g. road collision when transporting a large group of workers

RETAIL

Safety Risks

- **Manual handling** causing body stressing – e.g. lifting heavy or awkward boxes, stock, shelving
- **Sharp objects** – e.g. metal edges, knives, nails, edges of stock
- **Crushed by stock** – e.g. between pallets, crates, dropped heavy object
- **Fingers jammed in doors** – e.g. chiller door, office grill door, elevator door, gates
- **Moving objects** – e.g. forklifts, trolleys, machinery
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from height) – e.g. trip over box/crate, slip on liquid/food/plastic/stairs
- **Assault** – e.g. abusive customers, shoplifters
- **Lack of supervision or training** – e.g. a lot of young, inexperienced workers
- **Working alone and working at night**
- **Fatigue** – e.g. from shift work.

Health Risks

- **Exposure to chemicals** – e.g. cleaning products
- **Psychosocial** – e.g. job stress, job control, bullying
- **Noise leading to hearing loss** – e.g. from tools, equipment, machinery
- **Air quality** – e.g. inadequate ventilation in stores within malls or other buildings

Catastrophic Risks

- **Collapsing structures** – e.g. the building

EMERGENCY SERVICES (ambulance, police, fire etc)

Safety Risks

- **Assault** – e.g. during arrest, while on duty, by a hostile patient
- **Traffic accidents** – e.g. as a driver/passenger and as a pedestrian
- **Explosions** – e.g. when attending a fire
- **Muscular stress** during physical activity – e.g. during training, using a stretcher, doing CPR, making an arrest
- **Muscular stress** from lifting, carrying or putting down – e.g. lifting patients, defibrillators, equipment
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from heights) – e.g. chasing someone, wet or uneven ground
- **Being hit by moving objects** – e.g. fingers caught in stretchers, cell doors
- **Electrocution** – e.g. damaged cables and electrical equipment
- **Working alone**
- **Fatigue** – e.g. from shift work
- **Driving at high speed**

Health Risks

- **Psychosocial** – e.g. emotional and psychological overstrain
- **Biological** – e.g. blood-borne, water-borne, air-borne diseases
- **Physical** – e.g. noise and heat
- **Exposure to chemicals** – e.g. occupational poisoning (especially firefighters), vehicle exhaust
- **Ergonomic** – e.g. heavy lifting

Catastrophic Risks

- **Traffic accidents** – e.g. as a driver/passenger and as a pedestrian
- **Explosions** – e.g. when attending a fire
- **Driving at high speed**
- **Exposure to chemicals** – e.g. occupational poisoning (especially firefighters)

ENERGY

Safety Risks

- **Moving objects** – e.g. using a cable knife
- **Falling from height** – e.g. off ladder, power pole, fence, truck
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing – e.g. lifting equipment, bar-installing, insulator-fixing
- **Slips, trips and falls** – e.g. wet, uneven ground, stairs
- **Electrocution** – e.g. power lines, power meter, and transformer
- **Falling objects** – e.g. gas bottle, ladder, fuse, equipment
- **Collapsing excavation**
- **Burning from hot works** – e.g. steam, hot water, electrical burn
- **Fires and explosion** – e.g. release of uncontrolled gas, high voltage switch explosion
- **Motor vehicle accidents** – e.g. rear end collisions
- **Working in confined spaces**

Health Risks

- **Exposure to chemicals** – e.g. silica in geo-thermal energy
- **Noise causing hearing**

Catastrophic Risks

- **Collapsing excavation**
- **Fires and explosion** – e.g. release of uncontrolled gas, high voltage switch explosion
- **Motor vehicle accidents** – e.g. rear end collisions
- **Working in confined spaces**

HEALTH CARE (excludes ambulance services)

Safety Risks

- **Assault by a patient** (may be intentional or unintentional)
- **Moving patients** – e.g. lifting, repositioning
- **Awkward and sustained postures**
- **Lifting equipment**
- **Insect and spider bites**
- **Slips and trips**
- **Falls** – e.g. from chairs, ladders, stools and stairs
- **Lacerations from sharp instruments** – e.g. scissors, needles
- **Fatigue** – e.g. from shift work

Health Risks

- **Biological** – e.g. blood-borne pathogens and infectious disease
- **Exposure to chemicals** – e.g. detergents, compressed gasses, alcohol hand sanitisers, disinfectants, latex
- **Psychosocial** – e.g. emotional and psychological overstrain

Catastrophic Risks

- **Biological** – e.g. blood-borne pathogens and infectious disease

FORESTRY

Safety Risks

- **Object in eye** – e.g. sticks, wood chip, dust, sparks, metal
- **Hit by moving objects** – e.g. trees, stumps, branches, logs
- **Machinery** – e.g. chainsaws, log splitters, chains, loaders, fellers
- **Insect and spider bites and stings**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing – e.g. carrying heavy equipment, pruning, planting
- **Slips, trips and falls** – e.g. slipping when breaking out, wet or uneven ground, slippery logs, rolling logs, planting, felling
- **Impairment** – e.g. fatigue from working long hours with a long commute in a physical job, use of drugs and alcohol, insufficient hydration
- **Fatigue** – e.g. from shift work
- **Working in poor lighting** – e.g. before sunrise and loading in the dark
- **Electrocution** – e.g. contact with overhead lines

Health Risks

- **Heat and cold stress**
- **Noise causing hearing loss**
- **Exposure to the sun (UV radiation)** – e.g. melanoma and skin cancers
- **Exposure to agrichemicals** – e.g. herbicides, pesticides, organochlorines and organophosphates
- **Ergonomic** – e.g. repetitive tasks
- **Psychosocial** – e.g. job stress
- **Vibration**

Catastrophic Risks

- **Vehicle crash** – e.g. when transporting a large group of workers to the site

MARITIME

Safety Risks

- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Lacerations and puncture wounds** – e.g. caused by using sharp tools (e.g. knives) and by falling into things when the ship is moving
- **Slips trips and falls** – e.g. slippery decks, moving ships, gear not properly stowed out of harm's way
- **Cutting and crushing injuries** – e.g. caused by getting caught in winches, hauling gear, fish processing gear, mussel processing machinery, etc
- **Confined space entry** – e.g. various spaces on ships that may have a hazardous atmosphere or present other dangers
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning** – e.g. exhausts from gas equipment
- **Fire explosion** – e.g. released uncontrolled gas

Health Risks

- **Gradual onset conditions** – e.g. noise causing hearing loss, musculoskeletal, temperature extremes
- **Fatigue** – e.g. from long hours at sea, physically demanding work, possibly cold and wet, likelihood of interrupted sleep

Catastrophic Risks

- **Confined space entry** – e.g. various spaces on ships that may have a hazardous atmosphere or present other dangers
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning** – e.g. exhausts from gas equipment
- **Fire explosion** – e.g. released uncontrolled gas
- **Fatigue** – e.g. long hours at sea, physically demanding work, possibly cold and wet, likelihood of interrupted sleep

AVIATION

Safety Risks

- **Moving objects** – e.g. aircraft (or parts of aircraft such as propellers), vehicles, machinery, ground equipment,
- **Manual handling causing body stressing** – e.g. moving luggage, cargo, goods and equipment
- **Working alone or in remote locations**, working/flying at night, or in bad weather
- **Verbal/physical aggression** – e.g. from angry, frustrated, intoxicated passengers or clients
- **Security-related safety risks** – e.g. sharp objects, weapons, chemicals, explosives
- **Risks from crowding or multiple parties working in the same space** – e.g. fuel tankers, catering trucks, baggage/cargo handlers, maintenance crew, handling heavy cargo/baggage
- **Working at height or falling objects** – e.g. while undertaking aircraft maintenance
- **Lack of supervision, training, experience** – e.g. new routes/destinations, new aircraft type, inexperienced workers
- **Safety risks from passengers** – e.g. failure to follow crew instructions during boarding and in flight, inappropriate use of portable electronic devices
- **Security** – e.g. explosives, chemicals, sharp objects, irate passengers, unauthorised access
- **Dangerous goods** – e.g. LPG cylinders and chemicals

Health Risks

- **Fatigue** – e.g. from long haul flights, schedule pressure, or long duty times awaiting suitable weather for agricultural operations
- **Gradual onset conditions** – e.g. skin cancer from sun exposure, temperature extremes while undertaking activities such as crop spraying or helicopter tourism, musculoskeletal issues
- **Exposure to chemicals** – e.g. fuel, oil, lubricants, agricultural chemicals
- **Noise causing hearing loss** – e.g. from aircraft, vehicles, machinery, tool or equipment
- **Work-related stress**
- **Ergonomic issues** – e.g. from cramped cockpits or poorly designed equipment

Catastrophic Risks

- **Working alone or in remote locations**, working/flying at night, or in bad weather
- **Security-related safety risks** – e.g. sharp objects, weapons, chemicals, explosives
- **Risks from crowding or multiple parties**
- **Lack of supervision, training, experience** – e.g. new routes/destinations, new aircraft type, inexperienced workers
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