# Hazard Identification Techniques

Identifying hazards is a key step in making the workplace safer. This is a task that the safety committee can take on, with the assistance of all employees in the workforce. There are several key ways to identify hazards.

## Look at accident reports

Review past accidents and near misses. List the key facts of the incidents and look for patterns.

## Perform a job safety analysis

Although this can be time consuming, it is the best way to identify hazards. With this method, you review each job. You look at each task that the job entails, and the method used to perform each task. Then, review each step for possible hazards. (A good way to test the safety of the step is to think, “Would I want my child doing this task this way?”) Ideally, this analysis will be performed with the employee to ensure every possible hazard is identified.

## Perform a walk through

Walk through the work site and look for hazards.

## Use a checklist

A checklist can help organize the walkthrough, ensuring that nothing is missed. It can also help identify common industry hazards. However, it may be too comprehensive, or it could exclude aspects particular to your workplace. If you’re going to use a checklist, have the safety committee review it first to ensure that it is applicable and appropriate.