

Hazard Ranking

For each of the hazards listed on the next page, assign a priority ranking that reflects both the severity and the probability of the injury or damage that could result. Use the U.S. National Safety Council categories below and give each hazard both a number and a letter. Ex: 1A, 3B, etc.

For severity:

1. **Imminent danger** – causing deaths, widespread occupational illness, or loss of facilities
2. **Serious** – severe injury, serious illness, property, and/or equipment damage
3. **Minor** – non-serious injury, illness, or damage
4. **Negligible/OK** – minor injury, requiring first aid or less
5. **Not Applicable**

For probability:

- A. **Probable** – likely to occur immediately or soon
- B. **Reasonably probable** – likely to occur eventually
- C. **Remote** – could occur at some point
- D. **Extremely remote** – unlikely to occur

Classify each of the following hazards:

- ___ A fire extinguisher with an inspection tag past the expiry date
- ___ Ice on a sidewalk in front of a busy entry door
- ___ An excavation without proper barricades
- ___ A worker who is painting without proper respiratory protection equipment
- ___ A worker grinding without a proper safety guard on the grinder
- ___ An attendant fueling a vehicle that is running
- ___ Workers removing asbestos without respiratory protection
- ___ A WHMIS SDS Book that is missing from its assigned location
- ___ An X-ray site without proper barricades or warning signs
- ___ A worker wearing running shoes while loading pipe
- ___ A worker not wearing ballistic nylon leggings while operating a chainsaw
- ___ An operator working in a noisy area without hearing protection
- ___ Excessive toxic fume buildup in a welding area
- ___ A worker with no eye protection while operating a table saw
- ___ A damaged plank on a scaffold
- ___ A 15-foot scaffold without guardrails
- ___ A wooden ladder that has been painted with solid colour
- ___ A metal extension ladder with one foot missing
- ___ Workers working on a swing stage without safety lines

Once completed, in a small group of three to five people, compare your rankings with the rankings other people made. Where you made different decisions, discuss the reasons for your ranking, and think about what guidelines you used to make your decisions. Take notes regarding guidelines that could be useful to keep in mind. (Someone from your group should be prepared to report your group's decisions to the rest of the class.)