



Hazard Awareness

A **hazard** is defined as a condition or changing set of circumstances that presents a potential for injury, illness, or property damage. The potential or inherent characteristics of an activity, condition, or circumstance which can produce adverse or harmful consequences.

An **accident** is defined as an unfortunate event often the result of carelessness or ignorance. An unforeseen and unplanned event or circumstance usually resulting in an unfavorable outcome.

There are some key words in these definitions: *unplanned, unforeseen, unfortunate, unfavorable* and most importantly **POTENTIAL!**

For an unplanned or unforeseen event to take place, there must be potential. Complacency and taking things for granted are causes of a tremendous number of injuries each year. Recognizing hazards and doing something about them is everyone's responsibility!

So, as you begin work, ask yourself:

- Do I have the right tools/equipment for the job?
- Have I inspected my tools/equipment to make sure they are in good operating condition and repair or am I trying to get by?
- Is the work laid out to provide safe completion of the job?
- Are the materials I am using safe, and do I need additional PPE such as glasses, gloves, hard hat, etc.?
- Is there a safer way to accomplish the task?
- Are all necessary equipment guards in place?
- Are written procedures, such as lockout/tagout being followed?

BE AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH YOUR WORK AND MAKE YOUR CHOICES CAREFULLY!!