



Just a Moment for Safety

Hazard assessments not only can be performed on complex or high hazard tasks, but can also be done when performing simple tasks. Furthermore, not all hazard assessments have to be formal processes such as Job Plans or Safe Work Permits (although there are times when these processes are required).

Always take a moment before starting any task to identify hazards or potential risks that could lead to an injury. This act of refocusing has been shown to reduce the probability of an injury incident by more than 90% versus not taking a quick moment to identify hazards. How hard is that? You may have done the task you are about to perform thousands of times before. In your mind, you know that you could do it with your eyes closed. It is usually not the task itself but some small thing you did not anticipate that causes the incident such as:

- You did not notice the debris in front of the tool you were going to pick up.
- You did not notice somebody placed something on the part you were about to pick up.
- You did not realize how heavy an object is that you were asked to help carry.

Believe it or not, a moment is all it takes. Get in this habit of taking a moment to significantly reduce your chance of injury. Remember, injuries rarely occur when the hazards associated with a task are clearly identified and action is taken to reduce those risks.

Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of Safety."