



# Young people at work

## INFORMATION ON HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

When you first start work, your surroundings will be strange to you and this can make you vulnerable to new hazards that might cause you serious injury, ill-health or even kill you! For that reason your employer has to take extra care of young persons in the workplace and you have to be extra careful whilst you learn about the dangers around you.

Employers have to do their part by

- telling you about the risks
- giving you the information and training to avoid harm
- making sure the workplace and the equipment you use is safe
- providing you with free protective clothing and equipment to take even better care of you

In turn, you must take care of yourself and your workmates by listening to what you are told and closely following the instructions and guidance you are given by your employer

Employers must manage their work activity to ensure that their employees and visitors are not exposed to hazards that can cause them to be seriously injured. In doing so they have to look at what hazards are present or likely to be and control them to an acceptable level.

### What is a hazard?

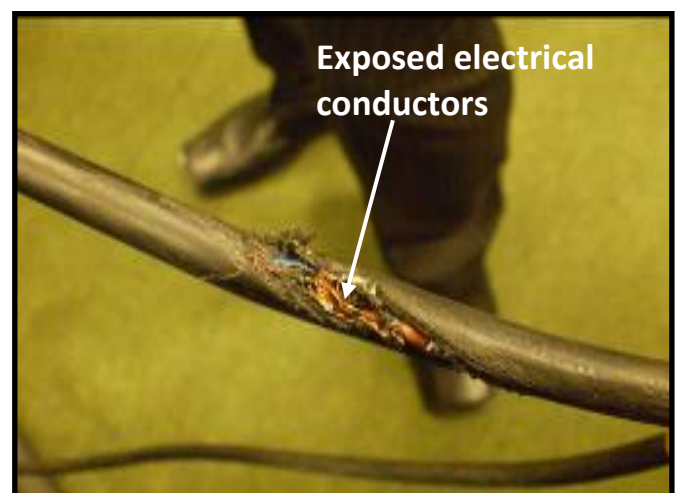
A hazard is anything that could cause harm e.g. items left in walkways, trailing leads, damaged flooring, spillages, etc.

### What is risk?

Risk is the chance, high or low, that somebody could be harmed by the hazard(s).

If there is a chance of serious injury from the hazard(s) then suitable measures must be taken to prevent this e.g. move the items from the walkways, relocate trailing leads and clean up spillages.

### Examples of hazards



**You are well within your rights to say NO to using the damaged equipment as shown above**

## FAQ

**Q.** What should I do if I see something in the workplace which I think is not safe?

**A.** Don't use it or allow others to. **TELL YOUR MANAGER**

**Q.** Can I be prosecuted if I cause an accident to someone else?

**A.** Yes. Employees as well as employers can be taken to court for not following health and safety law

**Q.** If I have an accident at work what happens next?

**A.** Certain types of accidents at work have to be reported by your employer. Your employer is likely to speak to you to establish what happened. The Local Authority / HSE inspector may also want to speak to you as part of their investigation

### Examples of some health and safety issues that you might be exposed to

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Hairdresser</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• slips and trips (shampoo, hair spills, cables, wet floor etc)</li><li>• skin irritation/dermatitis (washing hair, hair products etc)</li><li>• cuts ( scissors, sharps, etc)</li></ul> | <b>Newsagent</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• slips and trips ( wet floor, items left on floor, etc)</li><li>• manual handling (lifting and carrying of magazines, papers, etc)</li></ul> |
| <b>Florist</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• dermatitis (regular skin contact with water, handling of flowers, plants etc)</li><li>• slips and trips ( wet floor, cuttings, etc)</li></ul>  | <b>Café/ Fast food</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• slips and trips (wet floor, leaking equipment)</li><li>• cooking equipment ( hot surfaces/ spillages/skin contact)</li></ul>          |

### For further information visit

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/>

<http://www.youngworker.co.uk/>

[http://www.tuc.org.uk/tuc/rights\\_young.cfm](http://www.tuc.org.uk/tuc/rights_young.cfm)

[http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/index/your\\_money/employment\\_index\\_ew/young\\_people\\_and\\_employment.htm](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/index/your_money/employment_index_ew/young_people_and_employment.htm)

<https://www.britsafe.org/opinion-events/health-and-safety-campaigns>

If you are still concerned about health and safety in your workplace in Birmingham, contact Birmingham City Council's, Environmental Health (0121-303-9900) or the Health & Safety Executive (0121-607-6349)

Follow us at: [twitter.com/envhealthbham](https://twitter.com/envhealthbham)

