

BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL

# BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety at Work

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# RISK MANAGEMENT



**“Raising Standards, *Saving Lives*”**

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## **KEY POINT**

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Hazards exist in all workplaces. It is important to spot these hazards and reduce the risk of harm



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## WHAT IS A HAZARD?

<u>Workplace</u>	<u>Hazard</u>	<u>Harm</u>
Kitchen Kitchen	Hot surface Sharp Knives	Burns Cuts
Warehouse Warehouse	Fork lift trucks Lifting boxes	Serious injury Strained back
Construction site Construction site	Working on a ladder Working with electricity	Serious injury Death
Office Office	Working with a computer Trailing cable	Eyestrain Fractured wrist



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## WHAT HAZARDS CAN YOU SEE IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH?



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## WHAT IS THE RISK?

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- The risk is the likelihood of the harm happening and the severity of the injury
- Falling over a trailing cable could cause injury. If you were running and fell on a hard surface the injury could be worse
- Where the trailing cable is located could affect how severe the injury is. Imagine a trailing cable in an open area compared with a trailing cable at the top of some stairs



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## HOW DOES MY EMPLOYER MANAGE RISK?

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- Carries out risk assessments
- Develops policies and procedures
- Develops safe ways of working
- Provides suitable work equipment
- Promotes health and safety throughout the company



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## WHAT IS A RISK ASSESSMENT?

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- A risk assessment is simply a careful examination of what, in your work, could cause harm to people, so that you can weigh up whether you have taken enough precautions or should do more to prevent harm
- The law requires employers to carry out risk assessments and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has produced a simple five-step plan called 'the five steps to risk assessment'



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## HOW IS A RISK ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT?

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- Step 1 – Identify the hazards
- Step 2 – Decide who might be harmed and how
- Step 3 – Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
- Step 4 – Record your findings and implement them
- Step 5 – Review your assessment and update if necessary



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## HOW CAN MY EMPLOYER CONTROL THE RISK?

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In order of effectiveness:

- Elimination – get rid of the hazard, or cause of the hazard
- Substitution – try a less risky option
- Isolation – prevent access to the hazard
- Reduced exposure – reduce the number of people exposed to the hazard and how long they work with it
- Use personal protective equipment (as a last resort)

