LECTURE 16

Lecture Title: RA Study Scenarios

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21 ACADEMY

Undergraduate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety

AIM of Lecture

Working in groups of 5, students must carry out a **risk assessment**:

- Identify **at least 10 hazards** present in the scenario
- Decide **who may be harmed and how**
- Assess the **risk level** (likelihood × severity)
- Recommend suitable **control measures** using the **Hierarchy of Controls**

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Construction Sector Scenario

Building Site – Structural Works Phase

A multi-storey commercial building is under construction in an urban area. The project is in the structural works phase, with concrete pouring, steel fixing, and blockwork taking place simultaneously. Several contractors are working on site, and activities overlap throughout the day.

The construction site is active from early morning until late afternoon, with multiple trades working at the same time. Workers are operating at height on scaffolding and temporary platforms while others are working below, creating the risk of falling objects.

Tower cranes and mobile plant are used to lift and move heavy materials across the site, often over areas where workers and contractors are present. Uneven ground, trailing cables, and building materials stored around the site create slip and trip hazards. Manual handling of heavy blocks, formwork panels, and reinforcement steel is common.

Noise levels are high due to cutting, drilling, and machinery, making communication difficult. Temporary electrical supplies are in use, exposed to weather and potential damage. Dust is generated from cutting concrete and blocks, which may affect respiratory health. Access routes are shared by pedestrians and vehicles, and changing site conditions mean hazards can vary daily.

HORECA Sector Scenario

Busy Restaurant Kitchen during the festive season.

A high-end restaurant kitchen serves lunch and dinner under significant peak-time pressure during the festive season. Multiple chefs work in a confined space preparing hot dishes, with orders being time-critical and staff moving quickly between cooking, preparation, and plating stations.

Hot surfaces, ovens, grills, and open flames are in constant use throughout service. Sharp knives and cutting equipment are used continuously for food preparation and portioning tasks.

Floors frequently become wet and greasy due to spills, cleaning activities, and food residues, increasing the risk of slips and falls. Communication is often loud and urgent, and the combination of noise, heat, and time pressure can contribute to stress, fatigue, and reduced awareness of surrounding hazards.

Manufacturing Sector Scenario

Beverage Industry - Warehouse Operations Area

A beverage local manufacturing company operates a large warehouse where bottled and canned soft drinks are stored before distribution. The warehouse runs 24 hours a day and supplies supermarkets and hospitality clients. Activities include receiving goods, pallet stacking, order picking, shrink-wrapping, and loading delivery trucks.

Pallets of bottled and canned drinks are stacked up to five metres high within the warehouse racking system. Forklift trucks operate continuously throughout the shift and frequently share the same space as pedestrians, including order pickers and supervisors. Manual picking of mixed orders takes place during peak periods, requiring workers to lift and carry crates of beverages from pallets to picking trolleys.

The warehouse floor may become wet and slippery due to leaking bottles, damaged packaging, or condensation caused by temperature changes. Temporary staff are regularly employed during busy periods and may have limited experience, reduced familiarity with site procedures, and varying levels of safety training.

Office Sector Scenario

Medium -Sized Office (more than 5 employees).

A medium-sized organisation employs more than five people and operates from an open-plan office with additional meeting rooms and shared facilities. The company is legally required to have written risk assessments and formal health and safety arrangements in place due to the number of employees.

The office employs approximately twenty staff members who work regular office hours in an open-plan environment. Employees spend most of the working day using computers and other display screen equipment, often remaining seated for long periods. Not all workstations have been individually assessed, which may result in poor posture, discomfort, and musculoskeletal issues. Electrical equipment such as computers, monitors, printers, and extension leads is widely used, and some cables run across floors or behind desks, creating potential trip and electrical hazards.

Storage cupboards, filing cabinets, and document boxes are located throughout the office and may restrict walkways if not properly managed. Staff regularly use a shared kitchen area to prepare hot drinks and food, increasing the risk of burns and slips from spillages. Fire exits, alarm call points, and escape routes must remain clear at all times, but temporary obstructions can occur during busy periods or office reorganisation. During peak workloads, employees may experience increased stress due to deadlines, high workloads, and limited breaks, which can affect concentration, wellbeing, and overall safety.