

# Examples of risks by sector

This guide provides examples of common health and safety risks across different sectors. The guide has been developed to help SafePlus Assessors engage with businesses and identify and agree upon three key 'deep dive' risks to be considered when using the SafePlus Onsite Assessment and Advisory Service.

The risks are common examples only and the sector lists are not intended to describe all of the risks that businesses in any given sector may face. Some businesses will identify health and safety risks that are not on their sector's list, but are still very relevant to them and may be better priorities for their SafePlus assessment.

These lists of risks were developed with the support of workplace injury and harm statistics and research and advice from government agencies involved in regulating and insuring these sectors.



## CONSTRUCTION

### Safety risks

- **Moving objects**, for example, trucks, mobile/lifting plant, forklifts, tools and machine parts
- **Falling from height**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from heights)
- **Being electrocuted**, for example, striking underground wires, severing cables, contact with overhead lines
- **Falling objects**, for example, falling box, storage container, tools
- **Confined space entry**, for example, gases, chemicals or moving machine parts
- **Collapsing structures or excavation**
- **Burning from hot works**, for example, welding, grinding and cutting tasks
- **Fire explosion**, for example, striking gas pipe, released uncontrolled gas

### Health risks

- **Exposure to airborne contaminants**, for example, silica/wood/asbestos dust, diesel, solvents
- **Gradual onset conditions**, for example, noise, skin irritants, musculoskeletal, skin cancer
- **Heat stress**, for example, sunburn, dehydration

### Catastrophic risks

- **Collapsing structures or excavations**
- **Fire explosion**, for example, striking gas pipe, released uncontrolled gas
- **Confined space entry**, for example, gases, chemicals or moving machine parts

## MANUFACTURING

### Safety risks

- **Moving objects**, for example, mobile/lifting plant, trucks, forklifts, conveyors, tools and machine parts
- **Falling from height**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from height)
- **Being electrocuted**, for example, damaged cables and electrical equipment
- **Falling objects**, for example, falling box, storage container, tools
- **Uncontrolled release of pressure**, for example, hydraulics, steam
- **Exposure to harmful substances**, for example, toxic chemicals

### Health risks

- **Exposure to airborne contaminants**, for example, pesticides, welding fumes, formaldehyde, silica/wood/asbestos dust, diesel, solvents
- **Gradual onset conditions**, for example, noise, skin irritants, musculoskeletal, fatigue and temperature extremes

### Catastrophic risks

- **Uncontrolled release of pressure**, for example, hydraulics, steam
- **Exposure to harmful substances**, for example, toxic chemicals
- **Exposure to airborne contaminants**, for example, asbestos dust

## TRANSPORT (Commercial)

### Safety risks

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- **Moving objects**, for example, tools, machine parts, mobile/lifting plant or machinery, trucks, forklifts or shifting loads
- **Falling objects**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from height)
- **Hitting stationary objects**, for example, crushing limbs, abrasions, contusions
- **Driving**, for example, moving loads, road collisions, driving error
- **Working alone**, for example, long-haul in remote locations
- **Being electrocuted**, for example, striking underground wires, severing cables, contact with overhead lines

### Health risks

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- **Exposure to airborne contaminants**, for example, vehicle fumes, solvents, asbestos
- **Gradual onset conditions**, for example, noise, skin irritants, obesity, musculoskeletal, fatigue and skin cancer

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Driving**, for example, moving loads, road collisions, driving error
- **Exposure to airborne contaminants**, for example, asbestos dust

## WAREHOUSING AND DISTRIBUTION

### Safety risks

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- **Moving objects**, for example, mobile/lifting plant trucks, forklifts, tools, machine parts, unsafe or shifting loads
- **Falling from height**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from height)
- **Hitting stationary objects**, for example, striking overhead object, hitting corner of object
- **Falling objects**, for example, falling storage container, box, pallet, or racking
- **Working alone**, for example, in small-hours shift situations
- **Harmful substances**, for example, toxic, acidic, flammable and explosive chemicals
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning**, for example, exhausts from mobile lifting plant, trucks or forklifts

### Health risks

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- **Airborne exposure contaminants**, for example, vehicle fumes, solvents
- **Gradual onset conditions**, for example, noise, skin irritants, skin cancer, musculoskeletal, fatigue and temperature extremes

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Falling objects**, for example, falling storage container, box, pallet, or racking
- **Harmful substances**, for example, toxic, acidic, flammable and explosive chemicals
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning**, for example, exhausts from mobile lifting plant, trucks or forklifts

## POSTAL

### Safety risks

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- **Moving objects**, for example, mobile/lifting plant and machinery, trucks and forklifts
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from heights)
- **Falling objects**, for example, falling box, container
- **Driving**, for example, moving loads, road collisions, driver error
- **Being attacked by animals**, for example, dogs
- **Working alone**, for example, in public-facing situations

### Health risks

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- **Exposure to airborne contaminants**, for example, vehicle fumes
- **Gradual onset conditions**, for example, skin cancer from sun exposure

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Driving**, for example, moving loads, road collisions, driver error

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (Government)

### Safety risks

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- **Moving objects**, for example, mobile/lifting plant and machinery, such as forklifts, trolleys and conveyors
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Hitting stationary objects**, for example, crushing limbs, abrasions, contusions
- **Falling objects**
- **Verbal/physical aggression**, for example, in public-facing situations
- **Working alone**, for example, in remote, public-facing situations
- **Biohazard exposure**

### Health risks

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- **Work-related stress**
- **Gradual onset conditions**, for example, noise, musculoskeletal and fatigue

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Biohazard exposure**

## AGRICULTURE

### Safety risks

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- **Moving vehicles**, for example, quad bike or motor bike, tractor
- **Moving light machinery**, for example, self-moving plant, chain saw, machine part
- **Hit by animals**
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from heights)
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Hitting stationary objects**, for example, crushing limbs, abrasions, contusions
- **Falling objects**, for example, hay bales, fence posts
- **Working alone**, for example, in remote situations
- **Biohazard exposure**, for example, *Leptospirosis* from infected animal
- **Mishandled toxins/chemical/fuels**, for example, petrol, LPG, diesel, pesticide, herbicide, fertiliser, veterinary medicine
- **Being electrocuted**, for example, striking underground wires, severing cables, contact with overhead lines

### Health risks

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- **Work-related stress**, for example, fatigue, lack of sleep, alcohol and drug use
- **Exposure to airborne contaminants**, for example, animal/dirt/manure dust, exhaust fumes, agrichemical sprays/dust
- **Gradual onset condition**, for example, farm machinery noise causing hearing loss, skin irritants, skin cancer from sun exposure and musculoskeletal

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Driving**, for example, road collision when transporting a large group of workers

## RETAIL

### Safety risks

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- **Manual handling** causing body stressing, for example, lifting heavy or awkward boxes, stock, shelving
- **Sharp objects**, for example, metal edges, knives, nails, edges of stock
- **Crushed by stock**, for example, between pallets, crates, dropped heavy object
- **Fingers jammed in doors**, for example, chiller door, office grill door, elevator door, gates
- **Moving objects**, for example, forklifts, trolleys, machinery
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from height), for example, trip over box/crate, slip on liquid/food/plastic/stairs
- **Assault**, for example, abusive customers, shoplifters
- **Lack of supervision or training**, for example, a lot of young, inexperienced workers
- **Working alone and working at night**
- **Fatigue**, for example, from shift work

### Health risks

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- **Exposure to chemicals**, for example, cleaning products
- **Psychosocial**, for example, job stress, job control, bullying
- **Noise leading to hearing loss**, for example, from tools, equipment, machinery
- **Air quality**, for example, inadequate ventilation in stores within malls or other buildings

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Collapsing structures**, for example, the building

## EMERGENCY SERVICES (Ambulance, Police, Fire etc)

### Safety risks

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- **Assault**, for example, during arrest, while on duty, by a hostile patient
- **Traffic accidents**, for example, as a driver/passenger and as a pedestrian
- **Explosions**, for example, when attending a fire
- **Muscular stress** during physical activity, for example, during training, using a stretcher, doing CPR, making an arrest
- **Muscular stress** from lifting, carrying or putting down, for example, lifting patients, defibrillators, equipment
- **Slips, trips and falls** (not from heights), for example, chasing someone, wet or uneven ground
- **Being hit by moving objects**, for example, fingers caught in stretchers, cell doors
- **Electrocution**, for example, damaged cables and electrical equipment
- **Working alone**
- **Fatigue**, for example, from shift work
- **Driving at high speed**

### Health risks

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- **Psychosocial**, for example, emotional and psychological overstrain
- **Biological**, for example, blood-borne, water-borne, air-borne diseases
- **Physical**, for example, noise and heat
- **Exposure to chemicals**, for example, occupational poisoning (especially firefighters), vehicle exhaust
- **Ergonomic**, for example, heavy lifting

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Traffic accidents**, for example, as a driver/passenger and as a pedestrian
- **Explosions**, for example, when attending a fire
- **Driving at high speed**
- **Exposure to chemicals**, for example, occupational poisoning (especially firefighters)

## ENERGY

### Safety risks

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- **Moving objects**, for example, using a cable knife
- **Falling from height**, for example, off ladder, power pole, fence, truck
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing, for example, lifting equipment, bar-installing, insulator-fixing
- **Slips, trips and falls**, for example, wet, uneven ground, stairs
- **Electrocution**, for example, power lines, power meter, and transformer
- **Falling objects**, for example, gas bottle, ladder, fuse, equipment
- **Collapsing excavation**
- **Burning from hot works**, for example, steam, hot water, electrical burn
- **Fires and explosion**, for example, release of uncontrolled gas, high voltage switch explosion
- **Motor vehicle accidents**, for example, rear end collisions
- **Working in confined spaces**

### Health risks

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- **Exposure to chemicals**, for example, silica in geo-thermal energy
- **Noise causing hearing**

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Collapsing excavation**
- **Fires and explosion**, for example, release of uncontrolled gas, high voltage switch explosion
- **Motor vehicle accidents**, for example, rear end collisions
- **Working in confined spaces**

## HEALTH CARE (Excludes Ambulance Services)

### Safety risks

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- **Assault by a patient** (may be intentional or unintentional)
- **Moving patients**, for example, lifting, repositioning
- **Awkward and sustained postures**
- **Lifting equipment**
- **Insect and spider bites**
- **Slips and trips**
- **Falls**, for example, from chairs, ladders, stools and stairs
- **Lacerations from sharp instruments**, for example, scissors, needles
- **Fatigue**, for example, from shift work

### Health risks

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- **Biological**, for example, blood-borne pathogens and infectious disease
- **Exposure to chemicals**, for example, detergents, compressed gasses, alcohol hand sanitisers, disinfectants, latex
- **Psychosocial**, for example, emotional and psychological overstrain

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Biological**, for example, blood-borne pathogens and infectious disease

## FORESTRY

### Safety risks

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- **Object in eye**, for example, sticks, wood chip, dust, sparks, metal
- **Hit by moving objects**, for example, trees, stumps, branches, logs
- **Machinery**, for example, chainsaws, log splitters, chains, loaders, fellers
- **Insect and spider bites and stings**
- **Manual handling** causing body stressing, for example, carrying heavy equipment, pruning, planting
- **Slips, trips and falls**, for example, slipping when breaking out, wet or uneven ground, slippery logs, rolling logs, planting, felling
- **Impairment**, for example, fatigue from working long hours with a long commute in a physical job, use of drugs and alcohol, insufficient hydration
- **Fatigue**, for example, from shift work
- **Working in poor lighting**, for example, before sunrise and loading in the dark
- **Electrocution**, for example, contact with overhead lines

### Health risks

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- **Heat and cold stress**
- **Noise causing hearing loss**
- **Exposure to the sun (UV radiation)**, for example, melanoma and skin cancers
- **Exposure to agrichemicals**, for example, herbicides, pesticides, organochlorines and organophosphates
- **Ergonomic**, for example, repetitive tasks
- **Psychosocial**, for example, ob stress
- **Vibration**

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Vehicle crash**, for example, when transporting a large group of workers to the site

## MARITIME

### Safety risks

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- **Manual handling** causing body stressing
- **Lacerations and puncture wounds**, for example, caused by using sharp tools (such as, knives) and by falling into things when the ship is moving
- **Slips trips and falls**, for example, slippery decks, moving ships, gear not properly stowed out of harm's way
- **Cutting and crushing injuries**, for example, caused by getting caught in winches, hauling gear, fish processing gear, mussel processing machinery, etc
- **Confined space entry**, for example, various spaces on ships that may have a hazardous atmosphere or present other dangers
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning**, for example, exhausts from gas equipment
- **Fire explosion**, for example, released uncontrolled gas

### Health risks

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- **Gradual onset conditions**, for example, noise causing hearing loss, musculoskeletal, temperature extremes
- **Fatigue**, for example, from long hours at sea, physically demanding work, possibly cold and wet, likelihood of interrupted sleep

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Confined space entry**, for example, various spaces on ships that may have a hazardous atmosphere or present other dangers
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning**, for example, exhausts from gas equipment
- **Fire explosion**, for example, released uncontrolled gas
- **Fatigue**, for example, long hours at sea, physically demanding work, possibly cold and wet, likelihood of interrupted sleep

## AVIATION

### Safety risks

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- **Moving objects**, for example, aircraft (or parts of aircraft such as propellers), vehicles, machinery, ground equipment,
- **Manual handling causing body stressing**, for example, moving luggage, cargo, goods and equipment
- **Working alone or in remote locations**, working/flying at night, or in bad weather
- **Verbal/physical aggression**, for example, from angry, frustrated, intoxicated passengers or clients
- **Security-related safety risks**, for example, sharp objects, weapons, chemicals, explosives
- **Risks from crowding or multiple parties working in the same space, for example**, fuel tankers, catering trucks, baggage/cargo handlers, maintenance crew, handling heavy cargo/baggage
- **Working at height or falling objects**, for example, while undertaking aircraft maintenance
- **Lack of supervision, training, experience**, for example, new routes/destinations, new aircraft type, inexperienced workers
- **Safety risks from passengers**, for example, failure to follow crew instructions during boarding and in flight, inappropriate use of portable electronic devices
- **Security**, for example, explosives, chemicals, sharp objects, irate passengers, unauthorised access
- **Dangerous goods**, for example, LPG cylinders and chemicals

### Health risks

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- **Fatigue**, for example, from long haul flights, schedule pressure, or long duty times awaiting suitable weather for agricultural operations
- **Gradual onset conditions**, for example, skin cancer from sun exposure, temperature extremes while undertaking activities such as crop spraying or helicopter tourism, musculoskeletal issues
- **Exposure to chemicals**, for example, fuel, oil, lubricants, agricultural chemicals
- **Noise causing hearing loss**, for example, from aircraft, vehicles, machinery, tool or equipment
- **Work-related stress**
- **Ergonomic issues**, for example, from cramped cockpits or poorly designed equipment

### Catastrophic risks

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- **Working alone or in remote locations**, working/flying at night, or in bad weather
- , for example, , for example, sharp objects, weapons, chemicals, explosives
- **Risks from crowding or multiple parties**
- **Lack of supervision, training, experience**, for example, new routes/destinations, new aircraft type, inexperienced workers
- **Safety risks from passengers**, for example, failure to follow crew instructions during boarding and in flight, inappropriate use of portable electronic devices
- **Security**, for example, explosives, chemicals, sharp objects, irate passengers, unauthorised access
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