

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL	
Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: January 1, 2010
Topic: 8. Hazard Management Program	Replaces: New
Subject: 2.2. Definitions	
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PURPOSE

To ensure that all employees of the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB EMS Department are aware of the definitions surrounding Occupational Health & Safety and hazard management.

APPLICATION

Paramedics, EMA's, Joint Health & Safety Committee, Management

PROCEDURE

The following definitions relate directly Occupational Health & Safety and to a hazard management program:

First Aid: Includes but is not limited to: cleaning minor cuts, scrapes or scratches; treating a minor burn, applying bandages and/or dressings, cold compress, cold pack, ice bag, splint, changing a bandage or a dressing after a follow-up observation visit and any follow-up for observation purposes only.

Health Care: Includes services requiring the professional skills of a health care practitioner (i.e., a doctor, nurse, chiropractor or physiotherapist); services provided at hospitals and health facilities and prescription drugs.

Hazard: Anything (condition, situation, practice, behaviour) that has the potential to cause harm, injury, disease, death, environmental, property, or equipment damage.

Risk: The likelihood or probability that a hazardous event will occur.

Physical Hazard: Any physical compound or being that has the potential to cause injury or illness. Examples include noise, equipment, pressures.

Chemical Hazard: any solid, liquid or gas that has toxic or chemical component that can cause injury or illness.

Biological Hazard: Any biological component that can cause injury or illness such as viruses, bacteria, insects, animals

Ergonomic Hazard: Repetitive movements, improper set up and use of equipment (work stations)

Hazard Identification: The process of examining each work place and work task to identify all the hazards that are inherent to the job. Work areas for the EMS department would include but are not limited to EMS Stations, ambulances, first response vehicles, hospitals, patient houses.

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Risk Classifications: Risk is determined by using a combination of the probability of occurrence and the severity (consequences). Risk classifications for Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB EMS will be classified as follows:

Fatality or Permanent Disability – Imminent danger that has the potential to cause fatalities, permanent disability, or property, or environmental damage over \$50,000

Long Term Illness or Serious Injury – Serious danger that has the potential to cause long term illness, serious injury, or property, or environmental damage between \$5,000 and \$50,000

Medical Attention and Several Days Off Work – Serious danger that has the potential to cause medical attention and several days off work, or property, or environmental damage between \$1,000 and \$5,000

First Aid Needed – Minor danger that has the potential to cause the need for first aid, or property, or environmental damage of less than \$1,000

Hazard Controls – It is generally accepted that certain hazards will never be eliminated from the jobs that are performed by emergency workers, however where hazards can not be eliminated, control methods must be developed and put in place to minimize the risk to the workers and public safety. In order to minimize the hazards where it can not be eliminated the hazard controls are put in place using the following three possible courses of action.

Engineering Controls – This is done by modifying existing equipment to ensure better safeguards (such as equipment guards) or by substituting a different piece of equipment which may have better safety components.

Administrative Controls – This is done by ensuring that work methods are developed to reduce the risk using administrative controls such as written operating procedures outlining the proper and safe way to complete the task, by job rotation and restrictive hours of work to ensure a well rested and alert employee, and by ensuring staff training on the particular job (hazard) has been maintained and followed.

Personal Protective Equipment – This method should only be used as a last resort and in situation where the hazard can not be eliminated. Instances for emergency workers to use PPE would be:

- N95 mask, gloves, eyewear – when dealing with potential communicable disease, patient contact, obvious bodily fluid exposure.
- High visibility vest and helmet – when working on the side of the road, construction sites, or any other situation in which low visibility or traffic are potential hazards.

REFERENCE
