



Safety & Environment Moment (S&E Moment)

Script 10 – Hazard

Good morning and welcome to the S&E Moment.

Today, we are looking at the term “Hazard” as used in Health and Safety Management.

It is almost impossible for anyone to talk about safety without mentioning the word “Hazard”. So, what is a Hazard?

A hazard is something (i.e. situation or condition) that has the potential to cause accident, harm, injury or loss. Hazards exist everywhere, i.e. in our offices, in our homes, on public roads etc. and apply to both occupational health and safety and public health and safety. However, hazards tend to be specific or unique to your occupation or the job you do. A scaffolder at a construction site may be exposed to the hazard of “Fall from Height” while a driver behind the wheels is not. A cook in a kitchen may be exposed to fire hazard from gas stove while a teacher teaching in a classroom is not.

Know that objects such as cutlasses, knives, electric cables and even vehicles are themselves hazards because they can cause accident, harm or injury if they are mishandled.

Even the long wedding gown of a bride could be a hazard because the bride can step on it, trip and fall if not controlled.

The skill and experience in identifying hazard is the first step in preventing accidents or injuries. An experience was shared by a safety professional of a pregnant lady who tripped on an extension cords in her office, hit her stomach against a table and was rushed to the hospital, but died as a result, all because of a hazard that was not eliminated or controlled.

Please take a moment to assess or identify hazards in your environment, i.e. in your office, at home, warehouse, car etc. and make a list of them and outline measures to eliminate such hazards.

Please visit the Ghana Health Service COVID-19 website for further information and updates on ways to prevent the spread of the disease.

Please share your experience with us:

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Have a lovely day, bye.