

Activity P2

Who's responsible?

An accident is an unplanned and uncontrolled event. Accidents often cause injuries to people. They can cause damage to machinery and equipment. When they happen at work they can lead to loss of income for individuals or companies.

Every accident has a cause, and someone is always responsible. This activity will help you think about responsibilities for accidents at work.

Learning objectives

By the end of this activity you should be able to:

- explain some reasons why accidents happen at work
- decide what responsibility means for you and for employers
- suggest some ways to prevent accidents at work.

Materials you will need

A set of 'Who's responsible?' cards.



Stage 1

Get ready to work in a small group.

Find the three header cards, **My responsibility**, **Employer's responsibility** and **No one's responsibility**, and lay them on a table.

Share out the other cards. They identify some hazards at work.

Make sure you understand the difference between 'hazard' and 'risk'.

Check that you all understand the statements on the cards.

Stage 2

Now take turns to read out the cards and discuss each one carefully. Decide who is responsible for each hazard and put them on the table under the three headings so that everyone can see. You must be able to explain why.

Stage 3

When you have finished, look at how other groups have arranged their cards.

Do you agree? Or do you want to change something? You must explain why.

Stage 4

Next think about the hazards under 'No one's responsibility'. Is it true that some accidents are no one's responsibility? Think about these hazards again.

Stage 5

Now check your understanding. Use the checklist on the following pages to show who you think is responsible for safety. There are some blank lines for you to add extra hazards that you think of.

Lastly, choose three hazards from the list and explain how you can prevent them from causing accidents. Exchange your completed answers with a colleague and ask them for feedback.

Hazards that can lead to accidents in the engineering industry

Hazard	Who's responsible?		
	Me	Employer	No one
Using faulty equipment			
Having a hangover			
Untidy work area			
Personal protective equipment or clothing not used or worn			
Loss of concentration			
Not enough training or instruction			
Not understanding instructions			
Carrying out a task in poor light			
Machine guards not being used			
Failing to report damaged equipment to supervisor			
Not enough supervision			
Heavy rain leads to flooding in work area			
Not following instructions			
Messing about in the workplace			
Failure to give warnings to others			
Unprotected long hair, unsuitable clothes or wearing jewellery			
Too much noise in the workplace			

Hazards that can lead to accidents in the engineering industry – continued

Hazard	Who's responsible?		
	Me	Employer	No one
Assault			
Using compressed air line to clean down a machine			
Poor storage of tyres and exhaust systems			
Untidy materials store			
Unsafe methods of lifting or handling			
Unfit medical or physical condition			
Consumed alcohol or drugs			
Using equipment that is not working properly			
Working in too confined a space			
Riding as a passenger on a forklift truck			
Failure to observe dedicated safe walkways			
Ignoring oil or other spillages			
Smoking in a no-smoking area			
Not connecting exhaust ventilation equipment for short run work			
Not following equipment maintenance schedules			
Not washing dirty hands			

Hazards that can lead to accidents in the engineering industry – continued

Hazard	Who's responsible?		
	Me	Employer	No one
Items missing from First Aid box			
The person checking equipment is not formally recognised as a 'competent person'			
Adopting poor posture when using a display screen			

My responsibility in preventing an accident

Hazard	How I can prevent an accident?