

HEALTH AND SAFETY BULLETIN

April 2026!

Hazard assessment is an essential part of risk management. Identifying hazards and properly mitigating them helps keep workers safe.

This month, we look at hazard assessments plus showcasing some annual awareness days with tips for spring cleaning to prepare your home for the new season while mitigating common household hazards.

In This Issue

- Hazard and Risk
- Spring Cleaning

Observances/Awareness:

Month: [Autism](#); [FND](#); [HIE](#); [IBS](#); [Oral Health](#); [Oral, Head, & Neck Cancer](#); [Parkinson](#); [Pet First Aid](#); [Rosacea](#); [Sjögren's](#); [Sarcoidosis](#); [Testicular Cancer](#)

Days/Weeks:

[April Fools' Day](#): 1
[World Autism Awareness Day](#): 2
[First Day of Passover](#): 2
[Good Friday \(STAT\)](#): 3
[Dental Hygienists Week](#): 4-10
[Canadian Public Health Week](#): 6-10
[Green Shirt & World Health Day](#): 7
[Last Day of Passover](#): 9
[STI Awareness Week](#): 12-18
[Advance Care Planning Day](#): 16
[World Hemophilia Day](#): 17
[Organ and Tissue Awareness Week](#): 18-24
[Canadian Fertility Awareness Week](#): 19-25
[Osteopathic Healthcare Week](#): 20-26
[Administrative Professionals & Earth Day](#): 22
[Primary Immunodeficiency Week](#): 22-29
[Immunization Awareness Week](#): 23-30
[Stop Food Waste Day](#): 26
[National Day of Mourning](#): 28
[International Noise Awareness Day](#): 29



		Probability			
		Remote 1	Possible 2	Probable 3	Certain 4
Consequences	Minor 1	1	2	3	4
	Serious 2	2	4	6	8
	Major 3	3	6	9	12
	Catastrophic 4	4	8	12	16

Hazards are addressed according to risk number, high numbers before smaller ones (mitigations and controls are completed for risk 6 hazard before a risk 4). Anything ranked 8 or above is considered high risk and may have additional mitigation requirements. Consult the SWP for each high-risk hazard.

Image source

Hazard and Risk

RAE uses a consequence and probability matrix to assign risk rank to hazards before and after implementing controls.

What is a hazard?

- Any situation, condition, or thing that may pose a risk to the health and safety of workers or the environment. A hazard may present a risk to health or safety (or both).
 - ⇒Health: Potential to cause an acute or chronic illness, condition, or disease—usually in long term rather than immediate
 - ⇒Safety: Potential to cause immediate injury or damage

Identify Hazards:

- People:** Inexperienced workers, fitness-for-duty (fatigue, impairment), sick workers, deadline pressure, etc.
- Equipment:** type of equipment on site and in use, correct use, installation, and maintenance, etc.
- Materials:** type of materials present/used on site and for the task, how materials are being handled, stored, and disposed of, etc.
- Environment:** where the worksite is located, conditions that could affect the site or performance of the task like temperature, weather, wildlife, terrain, etc.

Risk Assessment

- RAE uses a 1-4 scale assigned to probability (chance that hazard will cause harm) and consequence (seriousness of harm). The two multiplied provides the total risk rank.

Mitigate the Hazard with Controls

- Eliminating or substituting the hazard for something less hazardous is the safest way, but if that's not feasible:
 - ⇒**Engineered Controls:** mitigate the risk from the source by separating the worker from the hazard (i.e. safeguards, barriers, redesigning work layouts, etc.)
 - ⇒**Administrative Controls:** mitigates by controlling how workers interact with the hazard (i.e. signs, certs, etc.)
 - ⇒**PPE:** Last line of defense to protect the worker (i.e. gloves, hard hats, FR coveralls, RPE, lanyard, etc.)
- If the hazard cannot be mitigated to an acceptable risk level, then the Right to Refuse should be exercised.

QUESTION! →

RAE Staff who answer correctly will be entered in a prize draw!
Email responses to raesafety@raeengineering.ca by 8am Pizza Friday, the winner will be announced that day.

Sources: CCOHS; WorkSafe BC

Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is a great way to let go of clutter, dust off the winter, and air out in preparation for warmer months. There are a couple dedicated cleaning days in April to get started, plus these tips!

- Declutter:** Empty closets/storage areas, donate or toss unused items, cleaning the space before returning items
- Clean top to bottom when dusting and wiping surfaces
- Clean & disinfect surfaces, especially kitchen & bathroom

Clean Up Your Pantry (& Fridge) Day: April 11

- Take everything out to sort and categorize
- Toss or donate items** that are nearing or after their best by date if you don't plan on using it any time soon
- Clean shelves before returning items
- Use items based on **FIFO: first in, first out basis**

Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Day: April 15

- Go through your medicine cabinet (and anywhere else you may store meds, i.e. purse, backpack) and toss it if:
 - ⇒Is not in original packaging or you don't know what it is
 - ⇒It has changed colour, smell, or taste
 - ⇒If it passed its Use By date
- Store in a cool, dry place (the bathroom is not ideal)
- Dispose of medications properly**, do NOT flush



Image source

Informative Links

- [OHS Guide to Refusing Unsafe Work](#)
- [Deep Cleaning for Spring: Room-by-Room Checklist](#)
- [7 Day Spring Cleaning Checklist](#)
- [Energizing Earth Month through battery recycling](#)
- [RAE 2026 HSE Manual:](#)
 - ⇒S.2 Hazard Assessment, Elimination, and Control
 - ⇒S.13 Work Site Inspection Policy

Which of the following forms is **NOT** used at RAE to record hazard assessments with risk ranking?

- Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA)
- Job-Specific Hazard Analysis (JSHA)
- Laboratory Risk Assessment
- Monthly Worksite Inspections Forms