Activity 1 Have you ever had an accident at work or witnessed somebody else have an accident?

Think about the impact an injury, and time off work, would have on:

- you;
- your family;
- your colleagues;
- your work activities; and
- your organisation.



Imagine one of your work colleagues has been seriously injured after being hit by a forklift truck on a pedestrian walkway. Investigations have found that the forklift had not been maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Consider the moral, legal and financial implications for both your colleague and the organisation.



A worker is working at height on a scaffold platform. They are wearing a hard hat and high visibility clothing, but there are no guard rails in place, or anything to stop them falling from the platform.

Who may face prosecution in this example? Discuss with your group and report back to the class.



Think about the duties for employers and workers that we have discussed. Write down examples of where, in your work activities, you have seen evidence of your employer's duties to you as a worker.

Think about your organisation's health and safety policy statement. How is it communicated to you? How do you think it could be communicated better?

Think about what processes you could improve in your organisation.

If your organisation has a formal management system, you could use your organisation's auditing checklist to determine what should be looked at in more detail. If it doesn't, a good place to start is by using the OSHA 'SHP Audit Tool', available online.

Whether you are learning from your own organisation or from the great ideas or mistakes of others, it is important to take these forms of review seriously, so that you can continually improve health and safety within your workplace.

You will find that the process of checking how you are doing will help improve safety overall.



Discuss which of these *could* be working at height:

- Climbing a stepladder.
- Climbing a staircase.
- Working beside a pier.
- Working at ground level.



Identify things to be considered when developing a suitable traffic management plan for a large DIY/hardware store. The store is open to the public and uses vehicles such as forklift trucks inside the building and yard.

Think about how risk assessments are done in your organisation. Do you think the people who do the risk assessments know enough about the risks they are assessing? Do you think the right people are involved in the risk assessment process?



See separate activity sheet

Have you had any incidents at work which were minor, but could have been a lot worse, where there was a lucky escape? What was done to stop this from happening again and from being much worse?

If we think about the incident on the previous page, although there were many failures at many levels, what is clear is that the organisation was not prepared for an incident like it.







See separate activity sheet

Thinking about the same example (the worker who cut his hand), identify actions to prevent this from happening again and decide on a realistic timescale for getting these actions done.

