

## HIOSH SEVERITY CATEGORIZATION OF HAZARDS

Classification of hazard as serious or other-than-serious based on severity of injury or illness that could result from hazard

### Serious Hazard

Condition which could result in death or serious physical harm

#### 3-step analysis

1. Type of accident or hazard exposure

If more than 1 type of accident or hazard exposure exists, determination based on type which could reasonably be predicted to result in most severe injury or illness

2. Type of injury or illness which could reasonably result from type of accident or hazard exposure in 1.
3. Whether injury or illness in 2. could include death or form of serious physical harm

#### Definition of serious physical harm

- a. Permanent or temporary impairment of body in which part of body made functionally useless or substantially reduced in efficiency on or off job (injury would usually require treatment by medical doctor)

Amputation (loss of all or part of bodily appendage, including loss of bone)

Concussion

Crushing (internal, even though skin surface may be intact)

Fracture, simple or compound

Burn or scald, including electric and chemical burns

Cut, laceration, or puncture involving significant bleeding and/or requiring suturing

- b. Chronic or acute illness that could shorten life or significantly reduce physical or mental efficiency by inhibiting normal function of part of body

Cancer

Poisoning (resulting from inhalation, ingestion or skin absorption of toxic substance which adversely affects bodily system)

Lung diseases, such as asbestosis, silicosis, anthracosis

Hearing loss

#### Other-Than-Serious Hazard

Condition which would probably not result in death or serious physical harm, but have direct and immediate relationship to employee safety and health