

ASSESSMENT OF UNSAFE CONDITIONS IN THE HOME ENVIRONMENT

Instructions: Record all unsafe conditions below. Indicate with an asterisk * those that appear to pose the greatest risk to prospective workers. A list of some unsafe conditions is provided on the back of this form. You may wish to review these before completing this assessment.

Client's Name: _____ Client's Address: _____

Type of accommodation: Apartment/room in home with own bathroom Apartment/room in home with shared bathroom
 Apartment in low rise Apartment in high rise Private Home/Townhouse Rural Home

<p>Exterior/Entrance to Building/Home</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/> No Hazards Identified</p>	<p>Potential Hazards Related to Non-Daylight Hours and Weekends</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/> No Hazards Identified</p>
<p>Chemical/Biological/Environment Hazard in the Building/Home</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/> No Hazards Identified</p>	<p>Fall Hazards in the Building/Home</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/> No Hazards Identified</p>
<p>Fire Hazards in the Building/Home</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/> No Hazards Identified</p>	<p>Personal Safety Hazards in the Building/Home</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/> No Hazards Identified</p>
<p>Physical/Ergonomic Hazards in the Building/Home</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/> No Hazards Identified</p>	<p>Hazards that may prevent you from responding in an emergency</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not assessed <input type="checkbox"/> No Hazards Identified</p>
<p>Medical condition(s) of Client Requiring Special Precautions</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not known <input type="checkbox"/> No Medical Conditions Requiring Precautions</p>	<p>Additional Observations/Comments</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Is there a working telephone? NO YES -> Location: _____

Are there accessible exits from the home? NO YES -> Locations: _____

Where is the nearest safe place? _____

Completed by: _____ Date (dd/mm/yy): _____

EXAMPLES

Please note that not all possible hazards are identified below and that the categories are not mutually exclusive.

Entrance to Building/Home

- Obstacles to entrance and exit (e.g., bushes, trees).
- Building structurally unsound.
- Clutter, accumulated garbage
- Poorly illuminated entrance, steps and walkways.
- Lack of or inappropriate handrails on exterior stairways.
- Poor condition of exterior stairs (e.g., broken, steep, narrow).
- Steps do not allow secure footing (i.e., uneven and not of same size or height, cannot see edges of steps clearly).
- Ice/snow on client's sidewalk and/or driveway.
- Windows/doors are not routinely locked.
- Parking lot/walkways uneven, pot-holed, slippery.
- Presence of animals, insects, rodents.

Chemical/Biological/Environmental Hazards

- Unsanitary conditions (e.g., accumulation of garbage, smell of urine).
- Presence of pets, rodents, birds, insects (i.e., potential sources of disease, allergic reactions, bites).
- Inadequate plumbing (e.g., cannot access bathroom facilities, drinking water concerns).
- Unsafe, inadequate or faulty equipment.
- Inadequate heat or ventilation.
- Presence of noxious fumes (e.g., environmental tobacco smoke).
- Kitchen ventilation systems or range exhausts do not function properly leading to indoor air pollutants.
- Temperature in home/apartment is extreme (i.e., too cold; too hot).

Fall Hazards

- Lamp, extension and telephone cords placed in the flow of traffic.
- Slippery area rugs and runners.
- Inadequate lighting in home/apartment or apartment hallways or stair wells.
- Floors are not clean, not dry and/or slippery.
- Floors contain loose or broken tiles.
- Use of cleaning products that make the floor surfaces slippery.
- Lack or inappropriate handrails on interior stairways (e.g., not secure, not long enough).
- Poor condition of stairs (e.g., broken, steep, narrow).
- Worn or torn coverings are on the steps.
- Steps do not allow secure footing (i.e., uneven and not of same size or height, cannot see edges of steps clearly).
- Clutter on stairways/hallways.
- Open stairway – fall risk.

Fire Hazards

- Electrical cords running beneath furniture and rugs or carpeting.
- Electrical cords attached to walls, baseboards, etc. with nails or staples.
- Frayed or cracked electrical cords.
- Excessive loads on extension cords.
- Extension cords and appliance cords located close to the sink or range areas.
- Towels, curtains and other flammables close to the range.
- Small electrical appliances plugged in when not in use.
- Exposed wiring/lack of cover plates on outlets/switches.
- Outlets and switches unusually warm or hot to the touch.
- Inappropriate size and type of light bulbs for fixtures.
- Heaters with three-hole plug not used in three-hole outlet.
- Small stoves and heaters in places where they could be knocked over and close to furnishings and flammable materials.
- Wood burning equipment not installed properly.
- Client does not understand installation and operating instructions for space heating equipment.
- Clogged chimneys.
- Ashtrays, smoking materials and other fire sources (heaters, hot plates, teapots) located close to bed or bedding.
- Electric blankets tucked in/have things on them.

- Gasoline, paints, solvents and other products that give off vapors or fumes stored close to ignition sources.
- Containers of volatile liquids not tightly capped.
- Compressed gases on premises.
- Improperly located smoke detectors (i.e., smoke detectors should be near bedrooms either on ceiling or wall (6" to 12" below the ceiling) and accessible to facilitate replacement of batteries).
- Absence of or improperly placed/working smoke detectors and/or carbon monoxide detectors.
- No portable fire extinguisher.
- Lack of specialized evacuation procedures to accommodate clients in wheelchairs.
- Only one exit from home.

Personal Safety Hazards

- Lack of safe parking facilities (e.g., far from building/home, poorly lit area, etc.)
- Home/building located in high risk environment.
- People gathered around building entrance, in building corridors, etc. making it difficult to enter the building without walking through them.
- Lack of building security.
- Presence of drugs and/or drug paraphernalia, weapons, etc. in home or surrounding environment.
- Presence of pets.
- Poorly maintained elevator.

Physical/Psychological/Ergonomic Hazards

- Main living area is cluttered.
- Client refuses to have furniture moved.
- Client refuses to obtain equipment that would assist the worker and prevent injury to the client and worker.
- Improper locking of medicine/medical supplies.
- Bathtub is available but client is wheelchair bound and requires use of shower stall.
- Lack of grab-rails either outside the tub or beside the toilet.
- Lack of access to either sides of the toilet or bed.
- No stepladders.
- Heavy items not stored at waist height.
- Lack of lifting/transferring equipment.
- Doorways are not wide enough to accept wheelchairs or specialized equipment.
- Lack of/inadequate interior ramps for wheelchair use.
- Inappropriate thresholds for wheeled equipment.
- Rooms are too small to adequately accommodate medical equipment.
- Presence of children.

Hazards Impeding Emergency Response

- No posting of emergency numbers (e.g., 911, doctor, Poison Control Centre) near telephone.
- No postings of emergency contacts such as neighbours, landlord, building security, family members, etc.
- Lack of access to telephone in event of fall, emergency, etc.
- Isolation - no neighbours or passersby within voice range. (See also Fire Hazards)