**A Hazard is any thing, any substance, any activity that could cause harm.**

**Risk assessment is a combination of the likelihood that someone will be hurt and the severity of the injury or ill health.**

Risk assessment is about identifying sensible measures to control the risks.

Your risk assessment will help you decide whether you have covered all you need to - that you have done enough.

**Principles of Prevention**

When selecting controls to eliminate or minimise risk use the Principles of Prevention;

1. The avoidance of risks.

2. The evaluation of unavoidable risks.

3. The combating of risks at source.

4. The adaptation of work to the individual.

5. The adaptation of the place of work to technical progress.

6. The replacement of dangerous articles, substances or systems of work by safe or less dangerous ones.

7. The giving of priority to collective protective measures over individual protective measures.

8. The development of an adequate prevention policy.

9. The giving of appropriate training and instructions to employees

**Note: Risk assessment is a legal requirement and certain tasks require particular risk assessment e.g. computer workstations, manual handling, work of pregnant employees.**

**To ensure controls remain effective:**

**Accountability** - Accountability should be clearly allocated to ensure procedures are followed and maintained

**Maintenance of equipment** - This will involve regular inspection and testing, repair or replacement of damaged or worn equipment. It includes checking that any control measures are set up and used correctly.

**Up to date training and competency -** Control measures, particularly lower level controls, depend on all staff having the appropriate competencies to do the job safely. Training should be provided to maintain competencies and to ensure new staff and post grads are capable of working safely.

**Up to date hazard information -** Information about hazards may be updated by manufacturers and suppliers and should be checked to make sure controls are still relevant. New technology may provide more effective solutions than were previously available.

**Regular review and consultation -** Control measures are more effective where there is regular review of work procedures and consultation with staff.