

“Low-Hanging Fruit” When Conducting Walkthroughs

Common, easy-to-spot hazards you can often correct within a day!

When pursuing safety management system (SMS) approval or recognition, groups of SMS assessors will visit your site. These assessors often discover straightforward hazards during worksite walkthroughs. You set up your organization for success by identifying and correcting these “low-hanging fruit” before Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other SMS assessors are onsite.

Identifying and correcting “low-hanging fruit” needs to occur during scheduled safety and health inspections and informally on a day-to-day basis. This one pager includes some items to look for when you walk through your worksite. Add any identified findings to your hazard tracking log and track it to closure. This enhances your inspection program, utilizes your hazard tracking system, promotes a safe and healthful work environment, and helps you identify trends.

“Low-Hanging Fruit” Examples

Machine Guarding

- Improper machine guarding
- Unanchored machinery
- Unadjusted guards on grinding wheels
- Ring test of the grinder wheels is nonexistent

Lockout/Tagout (LOTO)

- Use of devices other than those designated for LOTO
- Unable to identify who applied the device
- Use of LOTO devices for situations that do not require LOTO

Housekeeping

- Cluttered aisle ways
- Unkept, unclean, or cluttered work areas
- Unattended spills
- Storage less than 18" from sprinkler heads
- Eating and drinking in hazardous work areas

Electrical

- Damaged or frayed wiring
- Daisy chains
- Obstructed electrical panels
- Extension cords used as permanent wiring
- Lack of GFCIs near water sources



Picture shows a blocked and unmarked exit
Image retrieved from Bing Images (free to share and use license)



Picture shows machine not anchored to floor
Image courtesy of OSHA

“Low-Hanging Fruit” Examples

<p><u>Walking-Working Surfaces</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wires and cords pulled across aisle ways • Cords sticking out from under cubicle walls • Blocked aisle ways • Cabinets left open in hallways 	<p><u>Ladders</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unmaintained ladders • Improper use of ladders • Grease on ladders, resulting in a slip hazard
<p><u>Forklift/Powered Industrial Trucks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily pre-use inspection not performed • Unidentified load capacity • Seatbelts not worn by operators • Forklift operators not safely operating the trucks • Forks, attachments, or loads raised when not in use 	<p><u>Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of required PPE use • Incorrect PPE use • Missing, inaccurate, or illegible PPE signage • Damaged or deteriorated PPE in use • Improper PPE storage • No change-out schedule for respirator cartridges • PPE not readily available for visitors
<p><u>Chemicals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing Safety Data Sheets • Improperly stored containers • Unlabeled secondary containers • Lack of or inaccurate chemical inventory lists 	<p><u>Compressed Gas Cylinders</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlabeled cylinders • Storage near heat sources • Improper separation of different types of cylinders • Missing valve protector caps on unused cylinders
<p><u>Emergency and Egress</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blocked exit doors or egress paths • Locked exit doors • Obstructed fire extinguishers • Uninspected fire extinguishers • Missing EXIT signs on designated doors • No emergency evacuation maps posted 	<p><u>Emergency Eyewash/Shower Station</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirty eyewash nozzles • Stations not tested weekly • Showers not tested monthly • Uninspected stations and showers • Blocked or inaccessible stations • Wet, slippery floors from testing

For additional information on the SMCX’s services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://www.smscx.org>.