

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series. Today, we will be looking at the basics of industrial hygiene (IH). This training will teach you what IH is, how IH practices are implemented, and why it's important to your workplace.



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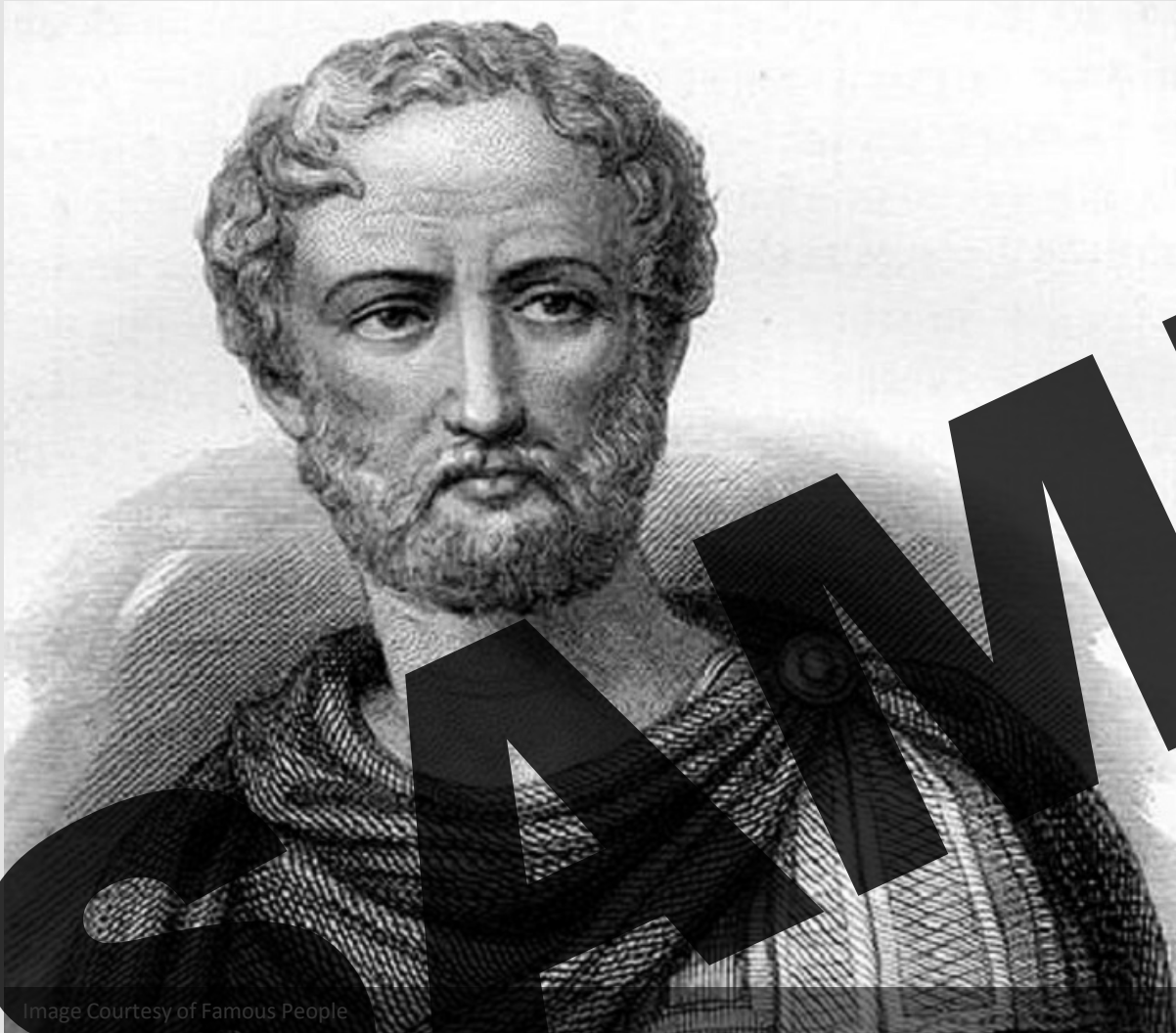


INTRODUCTION TO
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE



Industrial hygiene is commonly defined as the practice of anticipating, recognizing, evaluating, and controlling workplace conditions that could potentially cause employee injury or illness.





Since ancient times, people have been conscientious of employee health in the workplace. In fact, a Roman scholar named Pliny the Elder developed a face mask using an animal bladder in the first century AD. He wanted to control employee exposure to dust and lead fumes.

Image Courtesy of Famous People



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In modern times, the U.S. Congress passed the OSH Act of 1970 to protect the health and safety of employees all over the United States. Employers are now required to develop safety and health programs that combine industrial hygiene, occupational health, and hazard communication.





You may be wondering how OSHA and industrial hygiene are connected. Surprisingly, more than 40% of the OSHA compliance officers out there are also industrial hygienists. OSHA needs the help of industrial hygienists to evaluate different jobs and determine the prevalent hazards.



Principles of industrial hygiene are applicable to all kinds of professions, from healthcare to construction. Hygienists come from diverse educational and vocational backgrounds and have unique specializations that allow them to work effectively in their field.





While hygienists are uniquely qualified to identify and control hazards in the workplace, all employees and employers can benefit from understanding IH principles. This training will not offer specific guidance on how IH applies to a single type of job; however, it will give you a broad overview of how IH works in all job types.

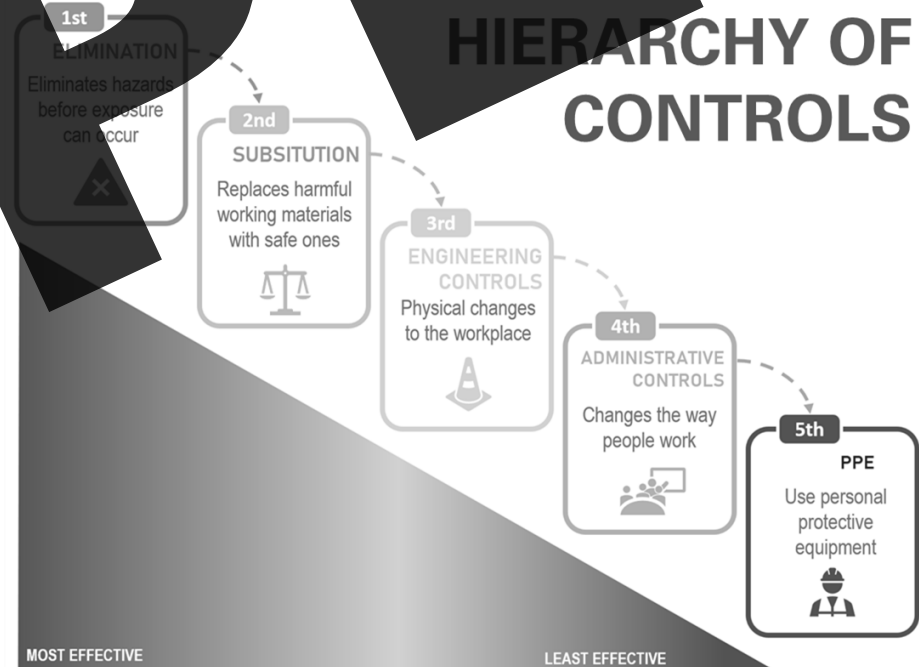


In this training, we will go over how to anticipate potential hazards in the workplace. We will also look at how to recognize hazards that are already present.



We will discuss how hygienists and employees can evaluate the severity of a given hazard and identify control methods. Next, we will go over the elements of a successful industrial hygiene program. Finally, we will look at some investigated case studies that illustrate the pitfalls of ignoring IH principles.

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS





STANDARDS

General Duty Clause 5(a)(1) - *"Each employer shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees."*

All OSHA and ANSI standards are devised through the help of industrial hygienists. Although there isn't a specific standard that focuses on industrial hygiene, the General Duty Clause explains the importance of providing employees with a safe and healthful workplace. Many states have additional standards, as do some industries. We have provided this as a guide, but it's your responsibility to know all federal, local, and company rules that apply to your job.

Anticipation

SAMPLE



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