

# Occupational Safety and Health

## What is Industrial Hygiene?

A specialized area of occupational safety and health that has as its goal the recognition, evaluation, and control of worker exposures to harmful physical, chemical agents or conditions.

Industrial hygienists are scientists, engineers, and public health professionals who protect the health of people in their workplaces and communities.

## What are the Principles of Industrial Hygiene?

**Anticipating Hazards:** Anticipating health hazards before they occur conserves resources by minimizing retrofits and renovations to protect the health of workers.

**Recognizing Hazards:** If a hazard is unrecognized, it cannot be controlled. Once a hazard is identified a plan is developed to evaluate the hazard.

**Evaluating Hazards:** The industrial hygienist determines the severity and associated risks related to the hazard. Measurements may be made or samples taken. Employees may be interviewed to discuss the task and provide their knowledge and opinions.

**Controlling Hazards:** When the evaluation is complete, the industrial hygienist, in cooperation with employees and supervisors, develops a controls to eliminate or minimize the hazard.

If you have any question regarding any of these subjects, you may contact a DOC industrial hygienist on 202-482-4935. You may also check these useful links.