Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace
Causes of workplace accidents and ill-health

Accidents in the workplace

Most major injuries in UK workplaces are caused by slips and trips. Slips and trips accounted for 43% of major injuries in 2012/2013.

Manual handling is another big cause of injuries and accounts for almost a third of ‘lost time’ injuries in UK workplaces.

Falling from height is the main cause fatalities in UK workplaces, mostly in the construction industry.
Causes of workplace accidents and ill-health

When unsafe acts are carried out in a workplace with unsafe conditions the chances of an accident greatly increase.
Risk management process

Risk Assessment
Identifying problems

Monitoring
Ensuring controls work

Control Measures
Reducing risk
Carrying out a risk assessment

How is a risk assessment carried out?
The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) suggests a process known as the ‘Five Steps to Risk Assessment’.

- **Step 1** – Identify the hazards
- **Step 2** – Decide who might be harmed and how
- **Step 3** – Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions
- **Step 4** – Record your findings and implement them
- **Step 5** – Review your assessment and update if necessary
The risk control hierarchy

A hierarchy of controls is used to reduce risks and can be described as ‘a set of measures designed to reduce risks in order of effectiveness’.

A typical hierarchy might be:

- **Eliminate (or substitute)** the hazard
- **Isolate** the hazard
- **Reduce** the risk from the hazard
- Introduce a **safe system of work**
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE)**