



Hazard, Risk, Accident, Incident, and Near Miss

Discover the key differences and examples of hazards, risks, accidents, incidents, and near misses in various settings.

Hazard

Definition

OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) defines a "hazard" as any source or situation with the potential to cause harm, injury, illness, or damage in the workplace.

Example 1

Chemical Hazard: Exposure to toxic chemicals or substances that can lead to poisoning, chemical burns, or respiratory problems. For instance, handling corrosive acids without appropriate protective equipment.

Example 2

Physical Hazard: Hazards related to the physical environment, such as slippery floors, falling objects, or extreme temperatures. An example is a wet floor that can cause slips and falls.

Example 3

Biological Hazard: Exposure to biological agents like viruses, bacteria, or fungi. In healthcare settings, contact with contaminated medical waste or patients carrying infectious diseases can pose biological hazards.

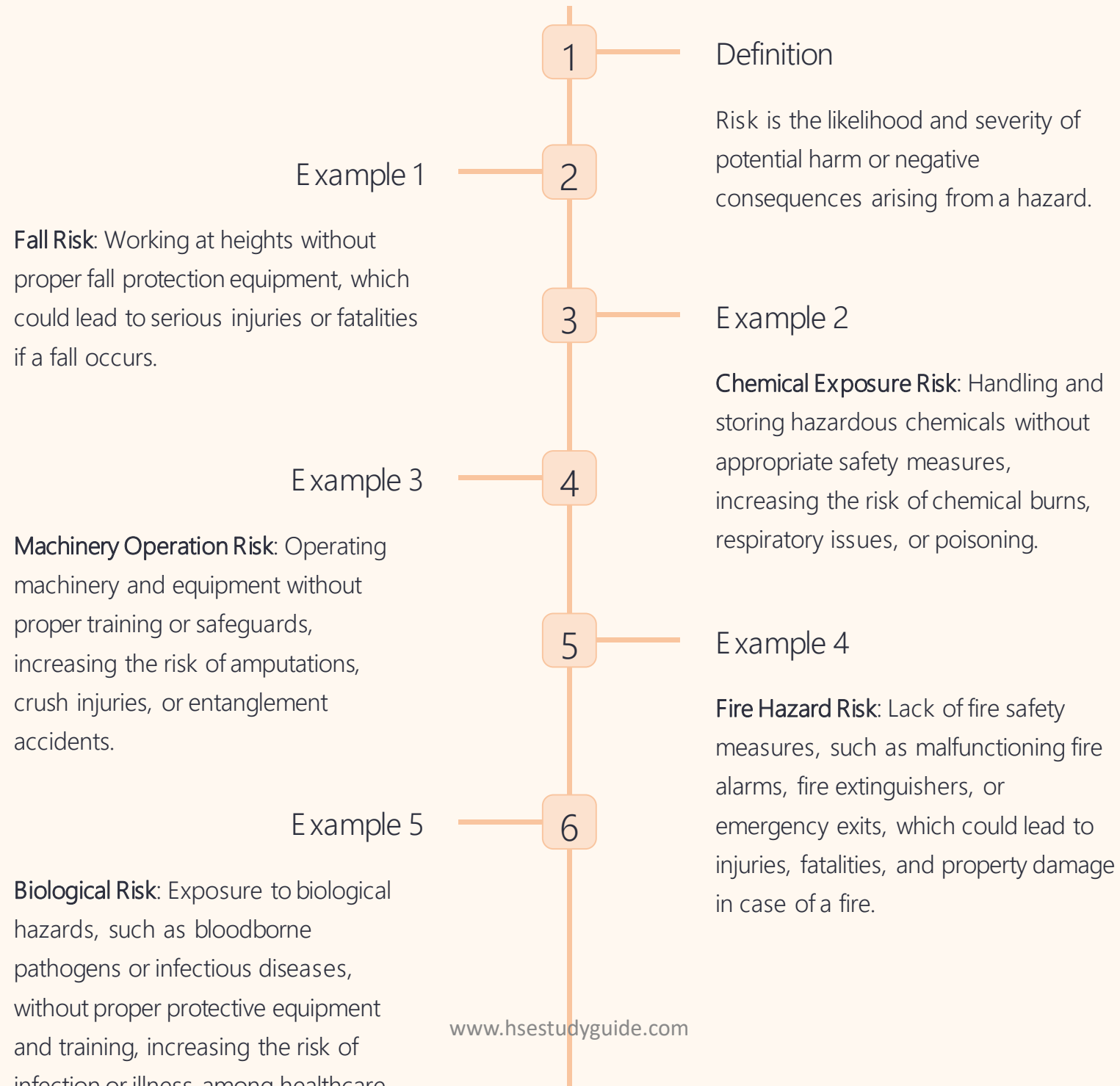
Example 4

Ergonomic Hazard: Hazards that result from improper workstation design, repetitive motions, or poor lifting techniques. Prolonged computer use with improper ergonomics leading to musculoskeletal disorders is an example.

Example 5

Psychosocial Hazard: Hazards related to stress, workplace violence, and other psychosocial factors that can impact mental health. Workplace bullying or excessive workload contributing to stress are examples.

Risk





Accident

1

Definition

Accident, as defined by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), is an unplanned and undesirable event that results in injury, illness, property damage, or a combination of these in the workplace.

3

Example 2

Chemical Exposure Accident: Improper handling of chemicals leads to a worker being exposed to a hazardous substance, resulting in chemical burns.

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Example 4

Electrical Accident: A worker comes into contact with live electrical wires, resulting in an electric shock and burns.

2

Example 1

Slip and Fall Accident: An employee slips on a wet floor and sustains a back injury.

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Example 3

Machinery Accident: A malfunctioning machine in a factory injures an operator, causing severe harm to their hand.

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Example 5

Forklift Accident: A forklift operator loses control and collides with a stack of products, causing both property damage and potential

Incident



Definition

Incident as an unplanned event that results in injury, illness, property damage, or near-miss occurrences. Incidents may include accidents, injuries, fires, explosions, or other events that disrupt the normal course of work and can have significant safety and health implications in the workplace.



Example 3

Fire Alarm Activation: A fire alarm is triggered by smoke from a small fire in the break room, but it is quickly



Example 1

Workplace Injury: An employee cuts their hand while using a box cutter.



Example 4

Machine Malfunction: A machine in a factory unexpectedly malfunctions, leading to production disruptions and potential safety hazards.



Example 2

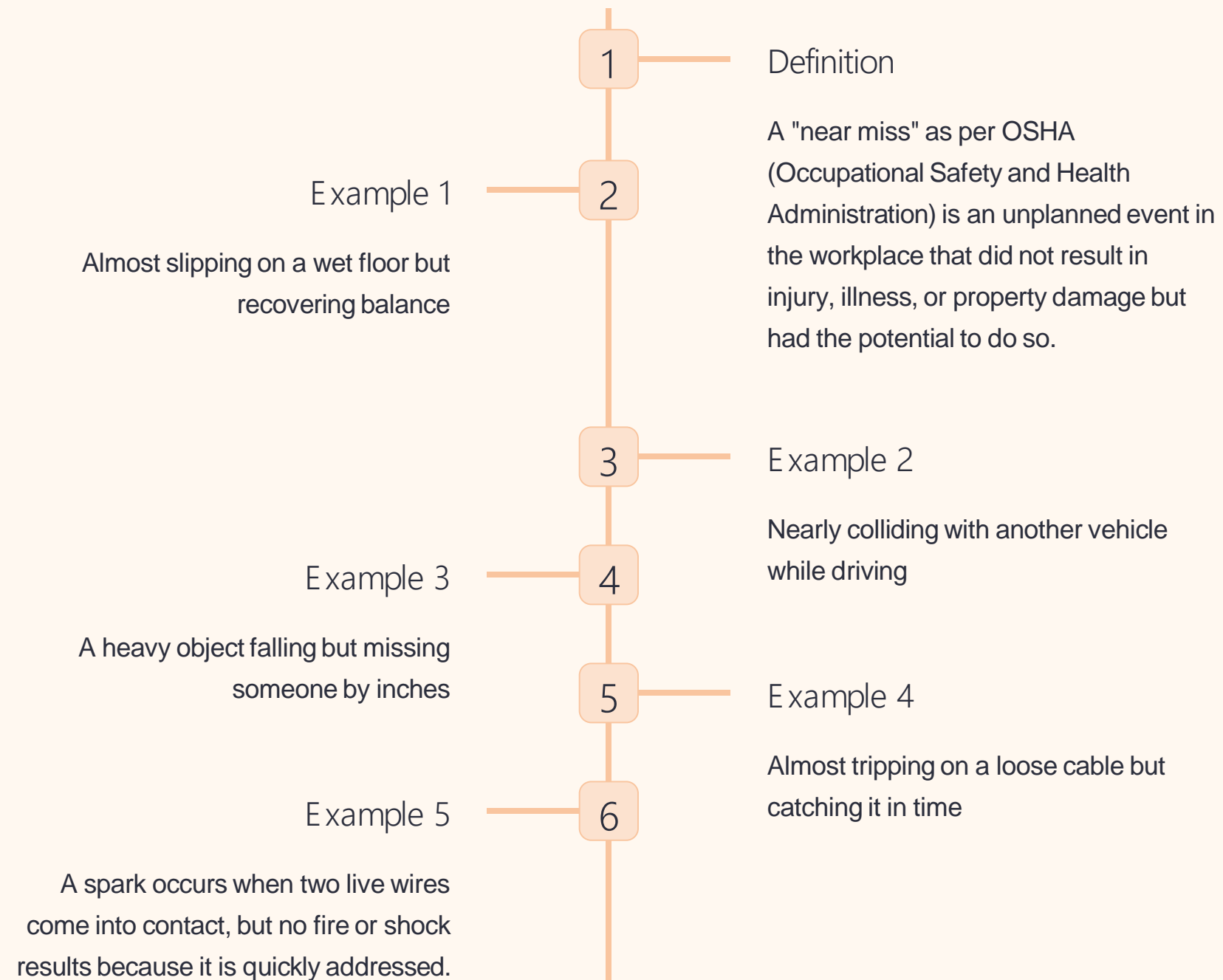
Chemical Spill: A container of hazardous chemicals leaks, creating a potentially dangerous situation for workers.



Example 5

Near Miss: A heavy object falls from a shelf but narrowly misses striking an employee.

Near Miss



Stay Safe and Informed

By understanding hazards, risks, accidents, incidents, and near misses, you can better protect yourself and others. Stay vigilant and report any concerns promptly.