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This presentation is not intended to be a comprehensive program covering all aspects of this topic. All technicians are encouraged to read and follow all applicable standards, codes and regulations related to this topic.

- It is the responsibility of each individual contractor to follow local building codes and licensing requirements and to work safely in accordance with OSHA
- guidelines.

 It is the contractor's responsibility to take proper precautions on each project to prevent cross contamination. Always take the health and safety of the building occupants into consideration before you conduct any cleaning procedures.

 All of the following tips are only general tips. They do not cover every situation and it is your responsibility to adapt these tips to the individual system you are working on.



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Typical Duct Cleaning Safety Hazards



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Typical Duct Cleaning Safety Hazards

- Sharp Edges
 Falls
 Lockout / Tagout Issues
 Eye Hazards
 Respiratory Hazards
 Chemical Hazards
 Slip, Trips & Falls
 Sprains & Strains
 Traffic Accidents
 Others?



SHARP EDGES

- Examples
 HVAC Openings, Patches
 Knives, Tools

- Control Discussion
 Cut Resistant Gloves (PPE)
 Cut Resistant Sleeves (PPE)
 Tool Guards (Engineering)
- Other Engineering Controls?

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FALLS

Examples
Ladders, Roofs, Vertical Shafts, Lifts

Control Discussion
Ladders: 3-Points of contact Training Hoist equipment

• Roofs:

Maintain 6' from edge Restraints & fall protection Avoid sky lights

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FALLS

Examples
• Ladders, Roofs, Vertical Shafts, Lifts

Control Discussion
 Ladders: 3-Points of contact Training Hoist equipment

· Roofs:

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Platform Ladders

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FALLS



Scaffolding

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LOCKOUT / TAGOUT ISSUES

HVAC units, electric heaters, fan pulleys, fan blades

- Controls
 Training
 Knowledge of equipment
 De-energize electrical hazards and mechanical hazards
 Remove potential or stored energy
 Verify de-energized stated



LOCKOUT / TAGOUT ISSUES

Importance of Lockout / Tagout

- Minimize potential startups
 New personnel or shift change
 Computer controls and overrides
 Mistakes or errors
- Redundancy

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EYE HAZARDS

Examples
• Metal shavings, blowing dust or fiberglass

Controls

- Negative pressure system
 Safety glasses or goggles
 Minimize and awareness of
 activities, especially those that
 generate high amounts of particles

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RESPIRATORY HAZARDS

Examples
• Airborne dust / mold / chemicals

Controls

- Negative pressure system
 Mold awareness
 Minimize and awareness of
- activities, especially those that generate airborne dust

 Respirators



RESPIRATORY HAZARDS



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CHEMICAL HAZARDS

Examples
 Coil cleaners, degreasers, antimicrobials, disinfectants

- Controls

 SDS review
 Use in accordance with manufacturer recommendations
 Adequate ventilation
 Appropriate gloves
 Respiratory protection

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CHEMICAL HAZARDS





SLIP, TRIPS & FALLS

Examples

· Cords, uneven surfaces, steps, curbs

Controls

- Controls

 Clean and organized site

 Adequate lighting

 Clean and dry walking surface

 Clean and dry ladders

 Watch where you are walking

 Understanding personal limitations

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SPRAINS & STRAINS

Heavy equipment, awkward posture or position, repetitive motion, vibrations

- Controls

 Self awareness and avoiding rushed work
 Unloading at loading docks
 Truck lifts
 Carts

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SPRAINS & STRAINS

Controls (continued)

- Understanding personal limitations
- Team-work
- Vibration gloves
- Lift straps
 Back or leg braces (caution)

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Traffic Accidents

Examples

· Distracted driving, traffic congestion, construction zones, parking lots

Controls

- Plan route prior to driving
 Obeying speed limits
 Hands-free devices (when allowable)
- Drive defensively and anticipate other poor driving Situational awareness

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UNKNOWN RISKS

Examples
• New tasks, new employees, new equipment, new sites

Controls

- Training (internal and external)
 Allow time for questions
 Proper supervision & assistance
 RTFM

- Google & YouTube
 Maintain control & re-evaluate

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COMPLACENCY

Examples
• Routine tasks, seasoned employees, older equipment, repeat sites

- Distracted workShort-cuts

- Lack of controls
 Lack of PPE
 Lack of redundancy
 Potential for unknown hazards



COMPLACENCY

Controls

- Self and team awarenessSelf reflection

- Site walkthroughs
 Tool & equipment inspections
 Tool & equipment maintenance
 Redundancy

- Company culture
 Team discussions

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MANAGEMENTTOOLS

- Safety Manuals
 Job Safety Analysis (JSA)
 Training (internal & external)
 Site reviews
 Accident & near misses reviews
 Injury & illness logs reviews

- Assess, change, repeat
 Create a safe company culture with open discussion

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MANAGEMENTTOOLS

- Implement redundancy
 Avoid the OSHA Cowboy example!





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