

Health and safety law in care

This group activity will encourage workers to discuss how health and safety laws and legislation affect their everyday work.

Match practical scenarios to the relevant health and safety legislation

Duration: 25 minutes

Resources: Pack of 20 cards, and health and safety legislation grid.

What core skills does this address?

- English skills including interpreting, understanding and using information.

What Care Certificate standards does this address?

- 8.1 Understand the principles of hydration, nutrition and food safety
- 13.1 Understand own responsibilities
- 13.3 Move and assist safely
- 13.6 Handle hazardous substances

Introduce the activity

Each of the cards describes an example of a health and safety challenge in the workplace.

The four headings on the grid refer to key health and safety laws.

Workers should match the scenarios to the laws that the scenario has overlooked. Make clear that some of the examples could relate to more than area of health and safety law.

Ask workers to justify their decisions during the feedback discussion.

Feedback and discussion

Ask each group to choose two examples of poor practice and explain how they relate to an aspect of health and safety law.

Remember, an action could relate to more than one area of legislation. For example, if an action relates to a photocopier in the office this could be discussed as a failure to consider both Workplace Regulations and COSHH.

You could use these questions to structure the discussion:

- what could have been the result of the care worker's actions?
- what should the care worker have done?
- whose job is it to take action to prevent the incident happening again? (e.g. care worker, team leader, manager)
- can you think of any examples of how you have improved your own health and safety practices?

Food Safety Act 2006
Workplace regulations (health, safety and welfare)

Manual Handling Operations Regulations 2002

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health 2002 (COSHH)

A light bulb wasn't working on the stairway up to the office.	I left the fridge door open.	I had some gravy left in a jug - it was still hot but I put it straight in the fridge.	I used my finger to taste the soup I was heating it up for a resident.
I could barely see over the pile of towels and bed linen I was carrying.	The fumes from the photocopier in the office give me a headache.	The box fell when I tried to lift it down from the shelf.	My hands felt all itchy after I used the bathroom cleaner.
The label was so stained I couldn't read it, but as it smelt like bleach, I used it.	I left the can of air freshener on the window sill in the sun.	We didn't bother with the glide sheet - we just drag lifted her.	The staples on the box cut my hand when I put it in the cupboard.
The carpet in the residents' lounge was torn.	We don't have enough space for our clothes when we change into our uniforms.	We were short of toilet cleaner so I mixed in some bleach to top it up.	The tea cup had a tiny chip in it but it had just been washed so I used it.
I scratched someone with my ring as I helped them up from the chair.	The flex on the vacuum cleaner was split.	The sun is so bright you can't read the print on the computer screen.	I put the raw chicken breast on a plate at the top of the fridge.