



**MALTA  
DYNAMICS**  
Fall Protection and Safety

# HAZARD ASSESSMENT



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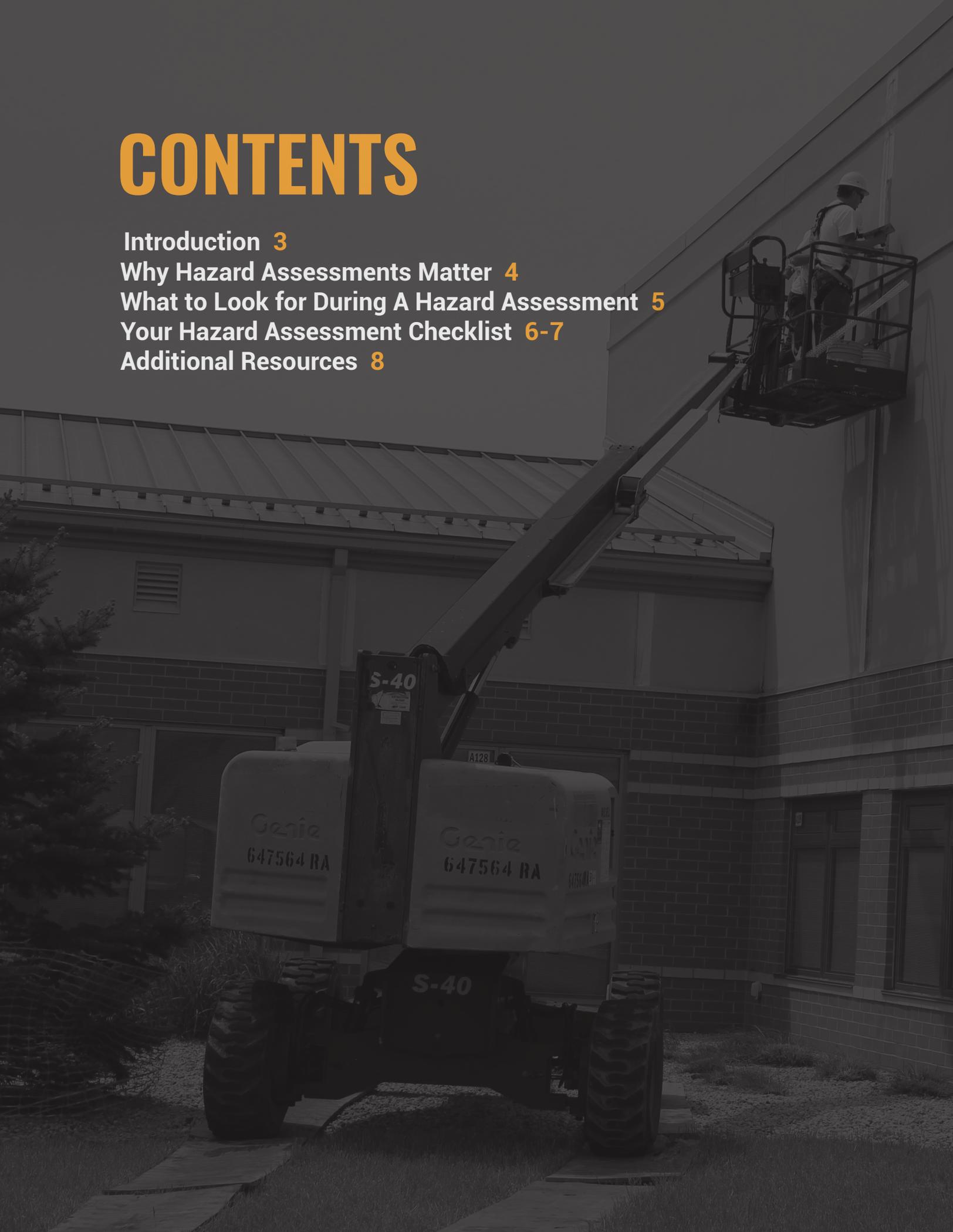
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# HAZARD ASSESSMENT

## INTRODUCTION

Failure to provide fall protection to workers remains one of the most consistently cited OSHA violations. Falls continue to rank among the leading causes of lost-time accidents and workplace fatalities for construction and general industry employees.

The first step to providing a safe working environment to your employees is to make a thorough and honest assessment of the fall hazards present in your workplace. Once the hazards are identified, your team can implement proper mitigation strategies and provide workers with critical personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep them safe when working at heights.

A simple hazard assessment can be completed in a day, and its positive effects can be felt for years. The effects can be measured in the health and safety of your employees and in accident-free days on the job.

# WHY HAZARD ASSESSMENTS MATTER

OSHA regulations require employers to perform hazard assessments of their workplaces to determine where risks occur, and which forms of PPE are required to address these hazards. Beyond simply satisfying one's regulatory obligations, however, conducting a hazard assessment can save lives and prevent serious injuries by first identifying and then eliminating or mitigating hazards to which your employees are exposed.

A hazard assessment is a proactive step you can take to identify risky conditions or environments before they cause an injury. The assessment forces you to closely examine areas of your work site that might otherwise be overlooked or assumed to be safe.

At the conclusion of a hazard assessment, you'll know where your workers are most likely to be at risk of a fall. Armed with this knowledge, you can engineer solutions to mitigate the risks, and train and equip your workers with PPE that will help to avoid serious incidents and injuries. Avoiding an incident is much better than having to deal with one's aftermath.

In the event of a fall injury at your worksite, having a completed hazard assessment—such as the checklist included in this document—in writing and on file will equip you with important documentation for OSHA. OSHA requires only a written certification that a hazard assessment was performed. Having a physical record of the completed assessment can help to demonstrate that your company has taken fall safety seriously by trying to identify hazards and making efforts to mitigate known risks to your employees. This documentation can help you to avoid certain OSHA citations and fines.

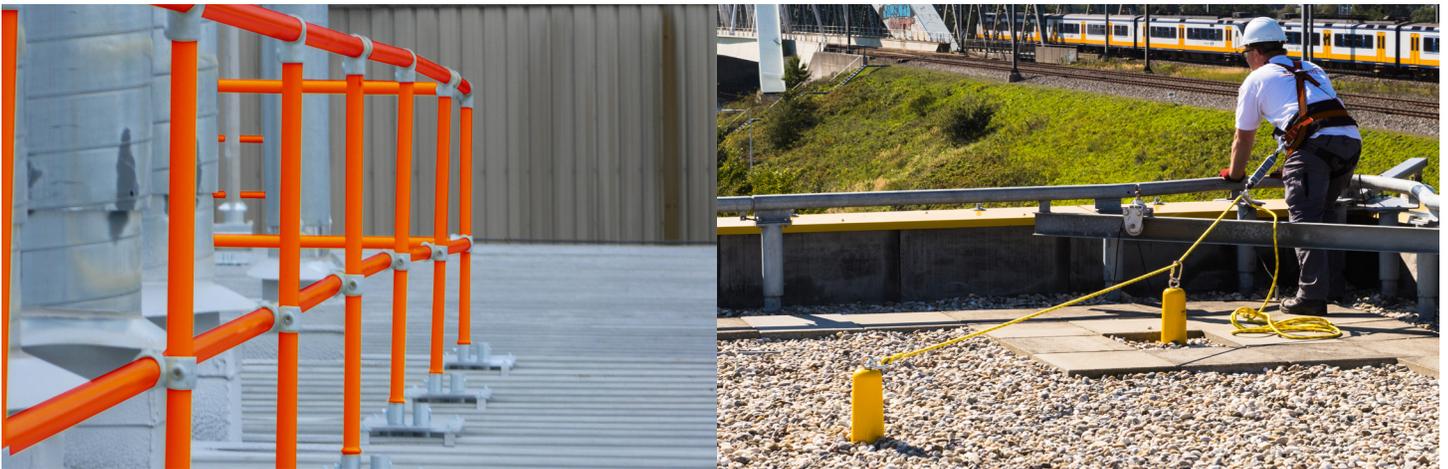


# WHAT TO LOOK FOR DURING A HAZARD ASSESSMENT

A Hazard Assessment should be conducted for any area in which workers can approach within 15 feet of an unprotected edge and where a fall of at least 4 feet can occur. This includes a wide variety of applications in general industry and construction.

When assessing a potentially hazardous area, begin by identifying the nature of the hazard and the type of work being done at this location. Identify any factors that may increase the risk of a fall, such as unstable footing, slippery surfaces, tripping hazards, or potential weather conditions such as ice or high winds.

Once you've collected information about the fall hazards at the site, you can begin considering opportunities for risk mitigation. Whenever possible, the best method is to eliminate the risk altogether by removing the worker's need to be in hazardous areas at all. When this is not possible, the next best solution is to engineer fall prevention around the hazard, such as installing guard rails or other engineered systems that protect workers in dangerous areas.



In some cases, workers will have little choice but to enter an area that puts them at risk of a fall. In these cases, fall protection must be used; workers must be offered and trained with suitable fall protection PPE. Consider having a Fall Protection Plan in place.



Finally, develop a plan for a rapid rescue in case of a fall from any hazardous locations you identify.



# YOUR HAZARD ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



Building/Location: .....  
Assessment Performed By:.....  
Date of Assessment:.....

## Reason for Accessing the Area: (Check all that apply and describe the work that will be done in the area)

1. Inspection		
2. Maintenance		
3. Electrical		
4. Servicing		
5. Repair		
6. Cleaning		
7. Testing		
8. Other		

### METHOD OF ACCESS

Stairs                       Portable Ladder                       Aerial Lift  
 Fixed Ladder                       Ship's Ladder                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Can workers in this area approach within 15 feet of an unprotected edge?

Yes    No                      Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Are workers in this area exposed to a fall of 4 feet or more?

Yes    No                      Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

# YOUR HAZARD ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



## Other hazards in the work area:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Light         | <input type="checkbox"/> Protruding Objects | <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Parts    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unstable Footing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> High Winds      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unstable Surfaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Drop-offs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather-related |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slippery Surfaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Floor Holes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sloping Surfaces  | <input type="checkbox"/> Floor Openings     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trip Hazards      | <input type="checkbox"/> Skylights          |  |

Can the hazard be eliminated? (Ex: moving the work to another location, etc.)

Yes No Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Can fall prevention measures be engineered/installed at the site? (Ex: guard rail systems, horizontal lifelines with fall restraints, etc.)

Yes No Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Can personal fall protection be used to arrest a fall? (ex: full-body harnesses, lanyards, Self-retracting Lifelines)

Yes No Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Fall Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Fall Arrest Stopping Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

Tie-off points: \_\_\_\_\_

PPE required: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a rescue plan in place in case of a fall from this area?

Yes No Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

## DO YOU NEED A PROFESSIONAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT?

Malta Dynamics offers workplace fall hazard assessments. Our analysis will verify that your current safety program and work practices comply with all OSHA, ANSI and other applicable regulations.

A Malta Dynamics Hazard Analysis includes:

- Any safety deficiencies or hazards identified will be detailed.
- Safety equipment inspection (see below).
- The necessary control measures and any recommended inspection procedures will be outlined.
- Recommendations for changes to the safety program and/or work practices to rectify the hazards will be provided.
- A comprehensive report will be prepared and sent via e-mail, and a hard copy will be mailed for your records.



Our experienced safety professionals can provide several levels of site surveys depending on your needs:

**Tier 1: Basic**—includes a site walk, a basic assessment of the facility, and a safety equipment inspection of your harnesses, lanyards, SRLs, etc.

**Tier 2: Standard**—A fall protection specialist will visit your site to conduct the Basic walkthrough plus a thorough examination of structures and existing fall prevention and protection systems.

**Tier 3: Comprehensive**—A trained engineer specializing in fall protection solutions will visit the site to conduct the walkthrough. This level of inspection includes the services of a senior engineer to observe your work site and make recommendations.

The time allotted for the on-site survey will depend on the size of the facility or area(s) to be reviewed.

Call us today at (800) 494-1840 to schedule your professional hazard assessment or visit [maltadynamics.com](http://maltadynamics.com).