



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY  
EXPERIMENT STATION

# MAFES DAWG TRACKS

♪ Makin their way  
The only way they know how  
That's just a little bit more  
than the law will allow ♪

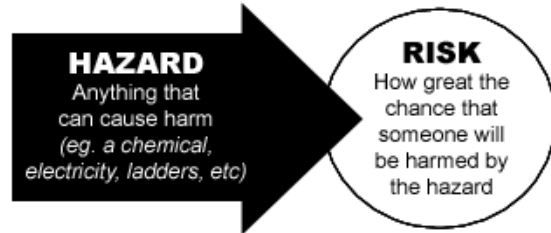
Do you sometimes feel like you're working in "Hazzard County" ... Not sure what kind of obstacle is around the next curve, and taking risks just trying to make a living and get back home?

There are hazards in every job task, no matter if you are operating equipment, handling poisonous chemicals, or simply sitting in an office. The key to getting back home safely at the end of your workday is to **recognize where hazards exist** and do the job in a way that will **lower your risk of exposure or eliminates the hazard.**

Just because a task or activity involves hazards, doesn't mean it is high risk. Hazardous work can be made safe providing that each risk is controlled so that the work can be carried out with no harm done. The hazard is still there, but the risk is controlled.

Hazards can be recognized by asking yourself, "What would happen if...?". However, some hazards are not so easily recognized. This is why it is vitally important for supervisors and experienced co-workers to tell new employees, and those new to a job task, about existing hazards and how to minimize the exposure.

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Discuss what hazards are present in your work task and implement actions that will reduce or eliminate the risk. For example:

- PTO shafts are a deadly hazard with a high risk of entanglement.
  - ✓ Reduce the risk if you do not wear loose clothing near a spinning shaft.
  - ✓ Even less risk if the shaft is also properly guarded.
  - ✓ Eliminate the risk if you disengage the PTO and ensure the shaft stops spinning before approaching.
- Working in a remote area is a hazard.
  - ✓ Reduce the risk by being prepared with the correct tools, personal protective equipment, 1st aid kit, etc. on hand.
  - ✓ Less risk when tell others where you will be located and have communication capabilities.
  - ✓ Minimal risk when you do not work alone, have check-in/out intervals, and emergency action plans.

Be the Uncle Jesse (supervisor), Daisy or Cooter (experienced co-worker) and help those Duke boys (new folks to the job) stay safe from Boss Hog & Roscoe (hazards).

*Apologies if you do not get this comparison & never watched the Dukes of Hazzard growing up.  
Feel free to email me your safety newsletter ideas*

## Sources:

<https://worksmart.org.uk>  
<https://www.haspod.com/blog>