

# Lesson Review: Health Hazards in Construction

The primary roles of an OSHA industrial hygienist include the following:

- Analyzing, identifying and measuring workplace hazards or stressors that can cause sickness, impaired health or significant discomfort in workers through chemical, physical, ergonomic or biological exposures
- Determining the extent of employee exposure to hazards
- Deciding what is needed to control work hazards
- Providing technical assistance and support to the agency's national and regional offices

Note the following key points in this lesson:

- Engineering controls are the first and best strategy used to control any hazard at its source and focus on the work environment and the job itself being designed to eliminate or reduce exposure to hazards.
- Work practice controls include the company's general workplace rules and other operation-specific rules.
- Administrative controls are any other measures that reduce employee exposure to hazards.
- Personal protective equipment should be used if the previous three measures do not provide enough protection for the safety of the worker.
- Despite the overall controls used to prevent hazards, correctional programs, such as medical programs, preventative maintenance systems and emergency preparation, may still be necessary.

**Remember:** Identifying the characteristics of hazards on the job is essential for recommending the appropriate controls.



Industrial hygienists recognize that engineering, work practice and administrative controls are the primary means of reducing employee exposure to occupational hazards.