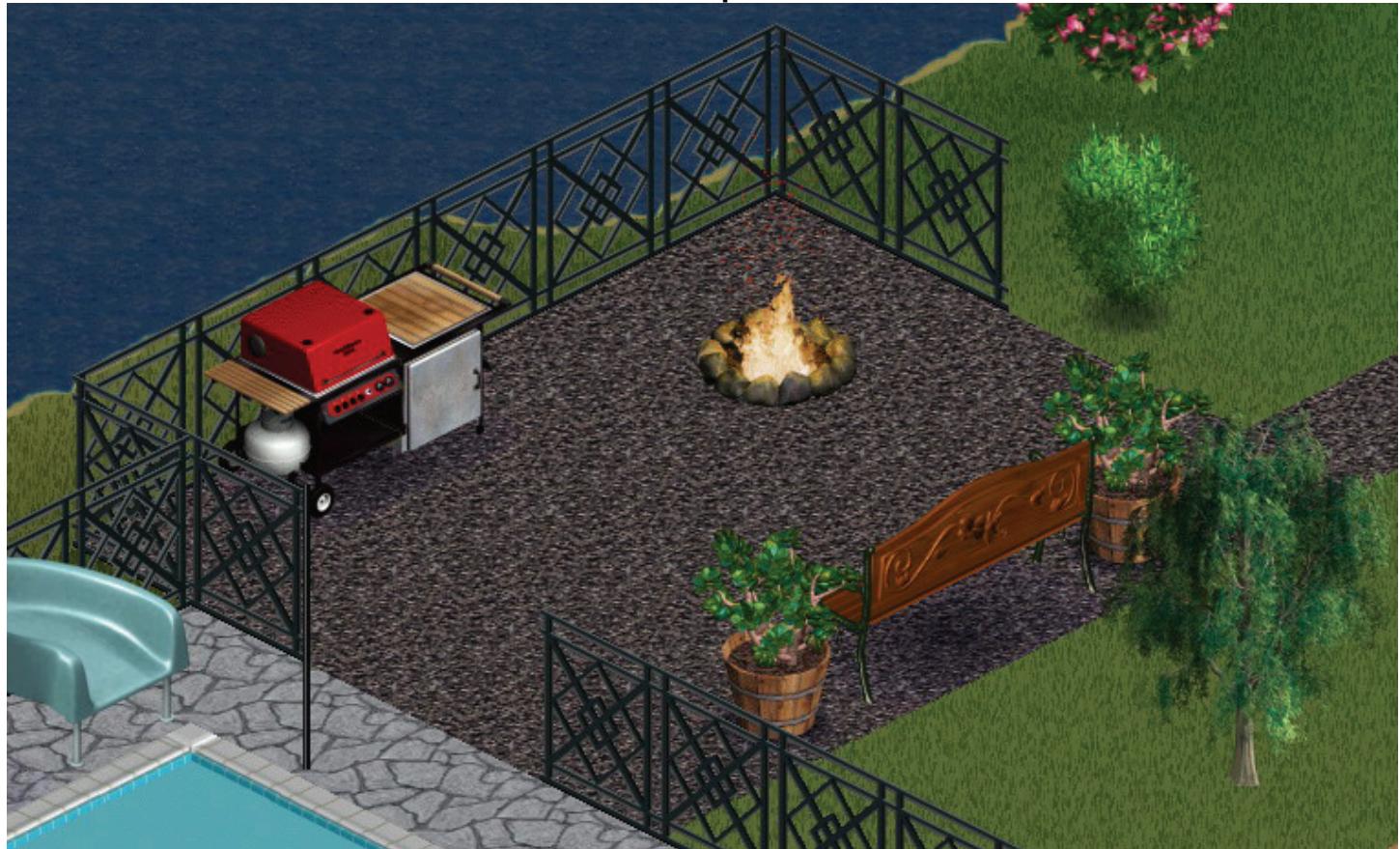


Occupational Hazards in Home Health Care



Patio Hazards

Click on an area for specific information



- Fire Hazards
- Chemicals

- Slips/Trips/Falls

This tool is used to help develop a comprehensive health and safety program. Within this tool are links that will lead to resources which will require internet connectivity for you to view them. The Care West Team has captured key elements in which we believe are pertinent to developing a successful health and safety program.

Hazardous Chemicals

Potential Hazards

Employee exposure to possibly hazardous chemicals, such as pesticides, disinfectants, and hazardous drug in the workplace for example:

- Ammonia, used as a cleaning agent, and chlorine solutions used as a disinfectant in dishwashing, can cause skin, eye, and nose irritations. (Avoid mixing chlorine and ammonia solutions because a chemical reaction may occur and deadly chlorine gas may be released.)
- Drain cleaners, oven cleaners, and grill cleaners can be caustic solutions that can cause skin burns and eye and skin irritations.

Possible Solutions

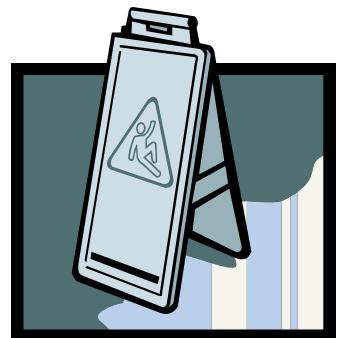
- Implement a written program which meets the requirements of the [Hazard Communication Standard](#) to provide for worker training, warning labels, and access to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).
- Provide appropriate PPE (e.g., gloves, goggles, splash aprons) when handling hazardous detergents and chemicals. For more information see – [PPE](#).
- Medical Services and First Aid: Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.
- To avoid employee contact with dishwashing detergents, good work practices recommends using dishwashing machines with automated detergent dispensers.
 - Workers must still be cautious and use appropriate PPE (e.g., goggles, and/or gloves) when changing out the containers of detergent.

Slips/Trips/Falls

Employee exposure to wet kitchen floors or spills and clutter can lead to slips, trips, falls, and other possible injuries.

Possible Solutions

- Floors shall be kept clean and dry. In addition to being a slip hazard, continually wet surfaces promote the growth of mold, fungi, and bacteria which can cause infections.
- Keep aisles and passageways clear and in good repair, with no obstruction across or in aisles that could create a hazard. Provide floor plugs or ceiling plugs for equipment, so power cords do not run across pathways.



Fire Safety:

Possible fires from heat producing equipment such as burners, ovens, and grills due to:

- Poor Housekeeping
- Un-emptied grease traps (possible grease fires).
- Improper storage of flammable items.
- Fire Prevention Plan requirements. Evacuation, Plans and Procedures.
- Faulty or Frayed electrical cords.

Possible Solutions:

- Provide appropriate and effective employee training for safe handling of equipment.
- Keep grill and grill duct work free from flammable residues and properly maintained.
- Flammable items must be stored away from heat producing equipment.

* Portable Fire Extinguishers [[1910.157](#)].

- Fixed dry chemical extinguishing systems used to fight grease fires must meet requirements of 1910.161 Dry chemical fire Extinguishers and Fixed Extinguishing Systems.
- Provide an emergency action plan, and fire prevention plan.
 - Emergency Action Plan (EAP):
 - If fire extinguishers are required or provided in your workplace, and if anyone will be evacuating during a fire or other emergency, then OSHA's [1910.157 standard](#) requires you to have an EAP.
 - [Am I required to have an emergency action plan?](#) OSHA's Expert System – Evacuation, Plans, and Procedures eTool.
 - [Should employees fight or flee a fire?](#) Evacuation, Plans, and Procedures eTool.
 - Fire Prevention Plan:
 - The purpose of a fire prevention plan is to prevent a fire from occurring in the workplace.
 - An employer must have a fire prevention plan when an OSHA standard requires one.
 - [Fire Prevention Plan requirements.](#) Evacuation, Plans, and Procedures eTool.