

STUDY FACT SHEET
Gambling With Worker Safety and Health:
Hazard Assessment in the Casino Hotel Industry

Researchers found workers at Station Casinos are needlessly exposed to safety, chemical, biological, and other hazards in an occupational safety and health study of four casino hotels owned by the company.

The [study](#), which was conducted through the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics' Occupational Health Internship Program, involved 177 participants who work in the food and beverage, internal maintenance, sanitation, and housekeeping departments at Boulder Station, Green Valley Ranch, Palace Station, and the Palms Casino. The researchers interviewed 17 subject matter experts (i.e., workers), reviewed OSHA records, and developed a survey which was completed by 177 workers.

HAZARD FINDINGS

WORK ORGANIZATION HAZARDS

- Over 85% of survey respondents reported they do not have personal access to a first aid kit at work.
- Over 70% of respondents said they don't always have all the supplies they need to do their job.
- Three-fourths (74%) of respondents said their workload has increased since they started their job.
- Two-thirds (66%) of respondents said there have been cuts to staffing levels.
- Six in ten (62%) respondents said the employee dining room does not regularly have nutritious, healthy meals available.
- Over 90% of survey respondents reported issues with stress at work.
- Over half of respondents said they experience violence at work (i.e., physical, verbal, emotional), 80% of them said their supervisor was the source of the violence.
- Three-fourths (76%) of respondents said their supervisors do not listen to their concerns or resolve problems at work.
- Over 40% of respondents said there is not an employee restroom they can easily use at work.

SAFETY HAZARDS

- One-fifth (21%) of respondents were not sure if their closest emergency exit was free from obstruction and 14% said their closest emergency exit was not free from obstruction. According to OSHA standards, it is necessary for workers to have access to at least two exits that are free from obstruction to allow employees to evacuate in case of an emergency.¹
- A majority of respondents from Palace (85%) and Palms (55%) said they did not receive training on Emergency Action Plans after renovations occurred. According to OSHA standards, employers should update their plans and retrain employees when there is a change in the layout or design of the facility that affects evacuation routes.²

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

- Nearly two-thirds of respondents have encountered at least one biohazard at work including vomit (54%), urine (50%), feces (41%), blood (50%), and hypodermic needles (44%).
- Guest Room Attendants and Porters had the highest levels of exposure to biohazards.
- Over half (56%) of respondents said they were not trained on biohazards with nearly one-fifth (18%) of those workers reporting that they clean biohazards at work despite never being trained on how to clean biohazards or their associated health risks, such as HIV and Hepatitis.

PHYSICAL HAZARDS

- Respondents said they experience physical hazards at work including heat (48%), smoke (38%), loud noises (37%), cold (19%), fire (14%), electricity (14%), and vibrations (11%).



CHEMICAL HAZARDS

- Over one-third (36%) of respondents who use chemicals at work said they were not trained on how to safely handle new chemicals when added to their work. OSHA’s Hazard Communication Standard requires that employers provide training to workers on hazardous chemicals when they are hired and when new chemicals are added.³
- One-quarter (26%) of respondents who use chemicals said that personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, masks) is not always in supply or available for use.
- Over 40% of the respondents who said they use chemicals at work reported that there is no eyewash station near them in case their eyes come into contact with chemicals. OSHA’s 29 CFR 1910.151(c) regulation requires that emergency eyewash stations be placed near areas where the eyes or body of a person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials.
- Nearly one half of respondents from Green Valley Ranch (44%) and Palace Station (41%) reported that they have not been trained on how to read Safety Data Sheets and what to do when they are exposed to chemicals. According to OSHA, workers should be given training on the labeling system of hazardous chemicals and be able to understand Safety Data Sheets.³
- Over half (57%) of respondents who use chemicals said they experience symptoms such as dizziness, headaches, nausea, rashes, dry skin, allergic reactions, or irritated eyes, nose, and throat.

ERGONOMIC HAZARDS

- Nearly every respondent (98%) said they experience ergonomic hazards through repetitive movements or prolonged postures, including walking (97%), standing (94%), lifting (88%), pushing (85%), pulling (83%), bending (83%), reaching (83%), twisting (67%), kneeling (65%), balancing (60%), cutting (36%), and crawling (29%).

PAIN AND INJURY

- More than 85% of surveyed workers reported that they have bodily pains and/or discomforts caused by their job. The top reported bodily locations with pain and discomfort include low-back (70.9%), foot/feet (63.6%), and mid-back (60.3%).
- Nearly 45% of survey respondents said they have been hurt or sustained an injury or illness that was caused by their job. Of these workers who have been hurt, over 15% responded that they did not report the injury or illness to management.

2018 Injuries and Illnesses (OSHA 300 records)

<u>Nature of Injuries or Illnesses</u>		<u>Event or Exposure</u>	
Sprains, strains, tears	51%	Overexertion and bodily reaction	33%
Cuts, lacerations	14%	Contact with objects and equipment	27%
Bruises, contusions	8%	Falls, slips, trips	17%
Puncture wounds	8%	Exposure to harmful substances and environment	14%
Dermatitis	5%	Violence by persons or animals	8%
Burns	4%	Transportation incidents	2%
Fractures	4%		
Other	7%		
<small>"Other" includes: concussions; abrasions, scratches; gunshot wounds; lumbago; symptoms involving respiratory system and chest; other respiratory system symptoms—toxic, noxious, or allergenic effect; conjunctivitis —non-viral</small>			

References

1. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "Emergency Exit Routes," March 2018, https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/emergency-exit-routes-factsheet.pdf.
2. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "Develop & Implement an Emergency Action Plan (EAP)," <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/evacuation/implementation.html>.
3. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, "Training Requirements in OSHA Standards," <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha2254.pdf>.