

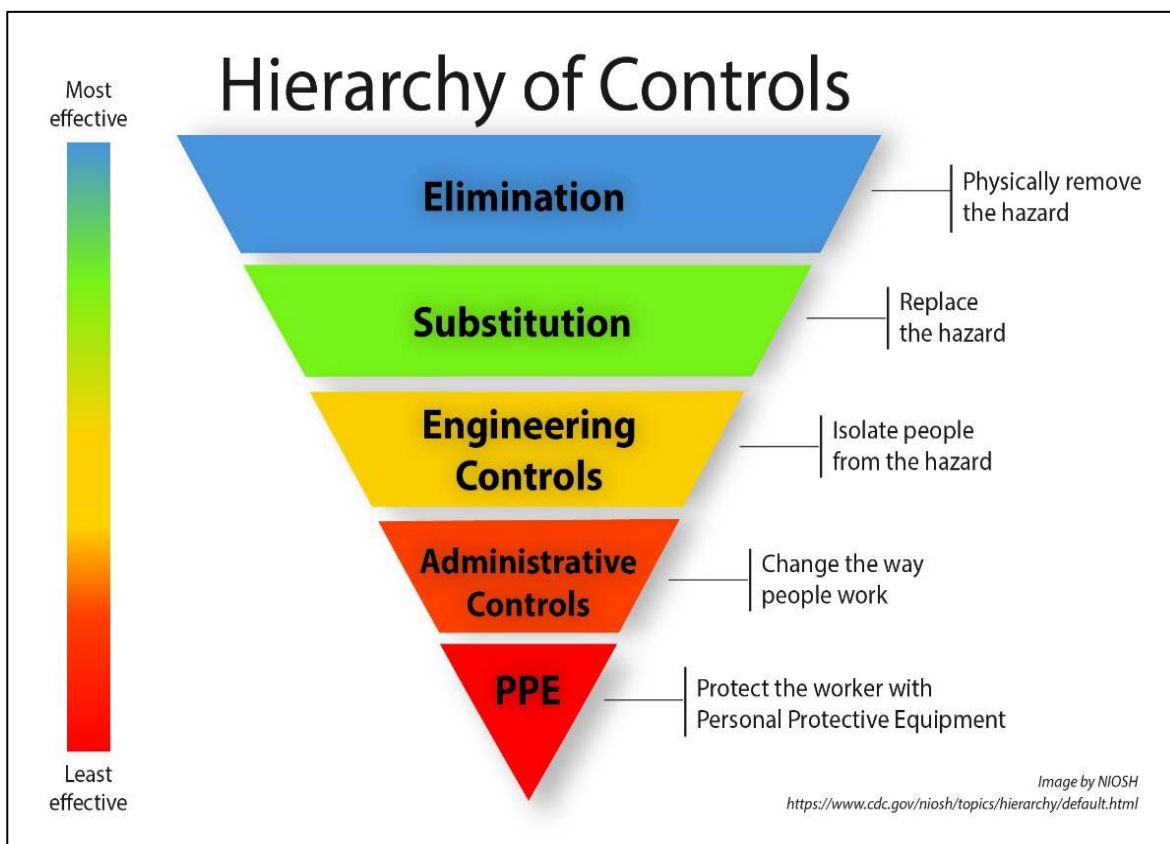


Toolbox Talks

Hierarchy of Controls



The **Hierarchy of Controls** is a method of identifying and ranking safeguards that protect workers from hazards. The graphic shows how the safety measures (controls) are arranged from the most effective at the top down to least effective at the bottom.



- To decide if a control is likely to work, it is necessary to understand how well it can protect workers and if it can be implemented successfully.
- Often, implementing a combination of control methods will protect workers the best.
- If the hazard cannot be eliminated completely, then continue down the list choosing one or more controls that will provide the maximum protection to keep workers safe.
- Do not rely on PPE as the only control mechanism when higher-level safety precautions can be implemented to provide a greater degree of worker safety. When other control methods have been implemented but are unable to reduce the risk to a safe level, then appropriate PPE must be utilized.

