

# Hazard Mapping Exercise for Organizers

## You will need:

A large piece of paper

Markers Tape

A set of sticky dots in six different colors:

**Red:** Areas with biological dangers (blood, mold, fungus, contagious diseases, etc.)

**Orange:** Areas where you get injuries caused by doing the same activity over and over

**Yellow:** Areas that give you stress, or where there are problems related to how your job is managed.

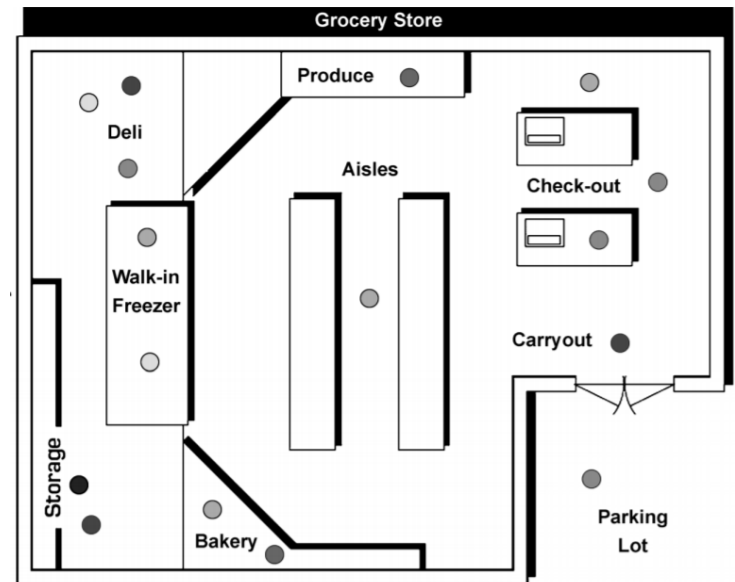
**Green:** Areas where there are dangerous chemicals.

**Dark Blue:** Areas where there are physical hazards such as noise, vibration, radiation, poor lighting, lack of ventilation, heat/cold, etc.

**Light Blue:** Areas where there are safety hazards (unsafe machines or equipment, confined spaces, electrical hazards, fall hazards, slippery floors, etc.)

**Goal:** Identify the specific things that are causing injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Begin to plan worker-driven actions to compel management to fix the problems.

*This works best with a group of workers from the same department, or who do the same type of work. Before you do this exercise, you should first complete the body mapping exercise that will help you see which workplaces illnesses or injuries workers in that department/job share.*



**Step 1: Ask participants to draw a map of their work area** that includes, machinery, equipment, workstations, furniture, storage areas, doors and windows, and any other important detail.

**Step 2: Ask each person to think about the specific places in their work area that cause them to get hurt, sick or stressed, then place the appropriate colored dot on that location on the map.**

**Step 3: Discuss each hazard to make sure the issues are clear.** Then ask questions such as: What are the biggest health and safety problems for workers? Where are most people hurt on the job? Where have there been changes in a job that makes the job more dangerous?

**Step 4: Bring the conversation back to the issue of power.** Do you think management will make these changes on its own? Why or why not? What will it take to get management to address each of these hazards? Which hazards will be easy to fix? Which will be more difficult to fix? How much power will we as workers need to get management to make each of these changes? How does that compare to the amount of power we currently have? What do we need to do to build the power we need to make these changes?