



There's An App For That

Empowering employees to make informed decisions about their safety is an effective way to build a strong safety culture. Access to these tools will help guide them in making those decisions.

The number of resources available for iPhone and Android applications continues to grow. Having supervisors and other staff download and use these can help them make immediate informed choices about hazards in the workplace. Those listed here are available for free at the Play Store application:

NIOSH* Heat Safety – The app calculates the index (i.e., real-feel) specific to the user's geographic location, and provides recommendations specific to the level of risk. It also provides signs and symptoms of various heat-related illnesses and first aid information for those illnesses.

NIOSH Ladder Safety – This easy to use application provides guidance for positioning ladders at the proper angle, and conducting inspections for extension and step ladders.

NIOSH Lifting – Not created by NIOSH, this application takes the formula for assessing the safety of a single, two handed lifting task. This is useful in creating job hazard analysis, and determining if additional assistance is needed when doing routine tasks.

Work Zone Safety Suite – Created in association with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), this app facilitates proper work zone layout and acts as a method of assessing what may be needed to work safely around traffic.

Noise Levels – Properly assessing noise exposures in the workplace requires properly calibrated equipment, and often the expertise of an occupational safety professional. There are numerous apps available for performing this task, but few meet the standards required of a "real" noise meter. Most would be effective in providing a general idea of how severe a noise problem might be. If using these, err on the side of caution. A NIOSH app is available on iTunes only.

HSEQ/WA APP (Good Observation, Near Miss and Accident Reporting) – This app offers users an interactive avenue for documenting workplace safety incidents. Upon photographing a safe practice, near miss or incident, employers can mark the photo with a finger-drawing tool, then save the photo with additional details and send it to others in the organization.

Is there anything not listed that you have found and value? Drop and note to the safety director for inclusion in a future bulletin.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact your risk management consultant, or NJPHA-JIF safety director, Jim Rhoads at 610-937-2694 or by e-mail at james_rhoads@pmagroup.com.

**National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, a department of the Centers for Disease Control*

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