Hazard identification and Risk Assessment are the basis of health and safety management. A risk assessment is simply a careful examination of what could cause harm to people, so that the organization can weigh up whether it has taken enough precautions or should do more to prevent harm. Risk Assessment can be applied to cover the general workplace and specific tasks.

The 5 steps to Risk Assessment are:

1) Identify the hazards:
   Walk around your workplace or the site you will be working at. Look at what could reasonably be expected to cause harm. Think about your previous accidents and health issues and evaluate whether these could come into play.

2) Decide who might be harmed and how:
   Identify the groups of people that could be at risk on this jobsite and how they could possibly be affected.

3) Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions: Can you get rid of the hazard altogether? Can it be controlled by switching equipment, wearing PPE, erecting barriers, etc.?

4) Record your findings communicate them as appropriate and implement them: It is important to document your findings so that something can be done about the potential risks, and you have records for future situations similar to the current one.

5) Review your assessment and update if necessary: Situations change all the time so be sure to make risk assessments an ongoing activity.