



# Commercial kitchens can be a calamity waiting to happen

If you can't take the heat, you'd better get out of the kitchen. And nowhere is this truer than in a busy commercial kitchen, where workers face innumerable hazards, not the least of which is the danger of getting burned. In our January/February "What's wrong with this photo" contest, readers identified the wide range of safety issues found in a typical kitchen, including hygiene, slip and trip, burn, electrical, ergonomic, and WHMIS concerns. Here are the ones we spotted, care of WorkSafeBC occupational safety officer Andrew Lim:

- Oven mitts are required to move a pot of boiling water.
- The oven door is open.
- The working area is blocked by boxes.
- The pizza boxes are stacked too high.
- A knife is sticking out past the counter's edge.
- The electrical panel is blocked.
- The plug does not have a ground fault circuit interruptor (GFCI).
- Water has been spilled on the floor.
- The pot rack is too low (I bumped my head!).
- Plastics have been placed too close to the burner element.
- The cleaning solution is sitting on the counter (WHMIS procedures must be followed).



- The worker is not wearing a hat (a Foodsafe concern).
- The rag is contaminated, possibly with chemicals.
- The worker is reaching awkwardly for the pot (an ergonomics issue).
- A bucket is blocking the aisle.
- The working area is generally cluttered.
- The box of carrots could fall on the worker's head.

Now it's your turn. See our centre-spread, pullout poster for a closer look at scaffolding safety.



## Danger and disarray too common in commercial kitchens

Editor, *WorkSafe Magazine* (Re: January/February issue, "What's wrong with this photo?")

The following potentially unsafe conditions/unsafe acts have been identified; however, they are listed in no particular order of priority.

- Items are stacked and stored in front of electrical panels.
- A low platform/bench is positioned beneath electrical panels, which promotes items being piled there. This platform/bench also appears to be damaged.
- The width of the aisle between the above-mentioned, stored items and the stainless steel table in the centre of the photo is too narrow for safe passage.

**Barry has won a medic safety kit for his letter!**

