Occupational Risks in Surgical Technology

Surgical Technologists work directly with physicians and patients, with the goal of providing healthcare and ensuring patient safety. As with any healthcare profession, there are certain occupational risks or hazards while performing duties of a surgical technologist.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has standards to protect the safety of healthcare workers and patients. Some occupational hazards for surgical technologists include:

- Exposure to blood, bodily fluids, and infectious materials
- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Sharps injuries
- Blood-borne pathogens and biological hazards
- Chemical and drug exposure
- Laser Hazards
- Ergonomic hazards from standing, lifting, sitting, and repetitive tasks
- Latex allergies
- Falls
- Stress

The curriculum of the LSU Eunice Surgical Technology program includes the hazards that may be faced by students and practitioners while attending clinic or on the job, as well as policies and protocols that are in place to ensure a workplace culture that prioritizes safety.