ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD SCENARIO
BEDSIDE AREA

Imagine you are an older person who suffered a stroke several years ago. Leaving you with a paralysed/non functional (stiff) upper limb (your dominant arm). Yesterday you fell in your room which caused some slight bruising leaving you generally stiff and sore in your back and the rest of your body.

Slip off your shoes, put on the sling to simulate the loss of function in your dominant arm. Keep in mind that you are still a little sore and stiff. Get into bed, under the covers to simulate the role play.

It’s evening, and you want to use the commode.
WHAT WERE THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS?

Where was the call bell, and why didn’t you use it?

Did your feet get tangled in the sheets?

From bed, did your feet reach the floor comfortably? Too high or low?

Were the bed-brakes on?

Was the overbed table in the way? Did you use it for support?

Did you lean on the commode armrest? Did it tip or wobble?

On the commode, could your feet touch the floor? Too high or low?

Could you balance to pull your pants up & down?

Could you get the toilet paper without over-reaching?

Did you make it in time? Or is the floor now wet & slippery?

HAZARDS IN THE ENVIRONMENT, COMBINED WITH PATIENTS’ REDUCED FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES INCREASE THE FALLS RISK!

All staff can contribute to patient safety by keeping an eye open for hazards and either fixing them directly or reporting them to someone who can!