



Typical Causes of electronic system & equipment failure

Media Oxide build-up from magnetic media ^{itself}

Environmental

Humidity - too wet or too dry
static, dust, smoke, ash, lint,
human hair, finger prints, even food & drink
particles.

Disk media travel ^{drive} under the head at speeds up to 240 kilometres an hour and so close to the head that even a finger print will not fit between the two.

Under these conditions a microscopic smoke particle, a near-invisible flock of dust or a 'gigantic' human hair crashing into the reading head could have a disastrous result.

At best, the head of a hard disk might be deflected, causing the entire system to produce incorrect or incomprehensible information.

At worst, the head might bounce and begin digging into the surface, scraping the oxide & probably making the disk useless.