

EVENT SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

As part of any good planning process hazards should be identified and risks assessed and controlled to minimise the potential for injury or harm. Events vary in size, nature and type, but all events require assessment, control and monitoring of risks.

Council requires that before an event is held on Council or public land, relevant permits and licenses are obtained and that a risk assessment and Event Management Plan is completed and forwarded to Council. Please note Council does not approve your risk assessments as it is part of your application process.

RISK ASSESSMENT – IT'S A MUST

The success of your event is measured in many ways and safety is one of them. As part of any good planning process hazards should be identified and risks assessed and controlled to minimise the potential for injury or harm. Events vary in size, nature and type, but all events require assessment, control and monitoring of risks.

While most of us understand this, we can find it difficult to apply to a working event document, such as Risk Registers or Risk Control Plans. Remember to start with something simple and build on it. It will become an invaluable tool that you can use to assess event safety – from the planning phase right through to the overall evaluation of the event.

This guide breaks down the risk assessment process, outlining each step:

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Hazard identification is the process of recognising hazards associated with an event. It is helpful to identify risks by considering the people involved, and their roles to ensure their safety at all times

Hazard 'groupings' that can assist in the identification process include:

- human - type and size of crowd expected, level of crowd participation
- technological - mechanical, utilities such as gas and electricity
- natural - the physical location and site area conditions
- environmental - weather, Environment Protection Authority controlled, ground impact etc.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is the process of estimating the potential effects or harm of a hazard to determine its risk rating. By determining the level of risk, event organisers can prioritise risks to ensure systematic elimination or minimisation.

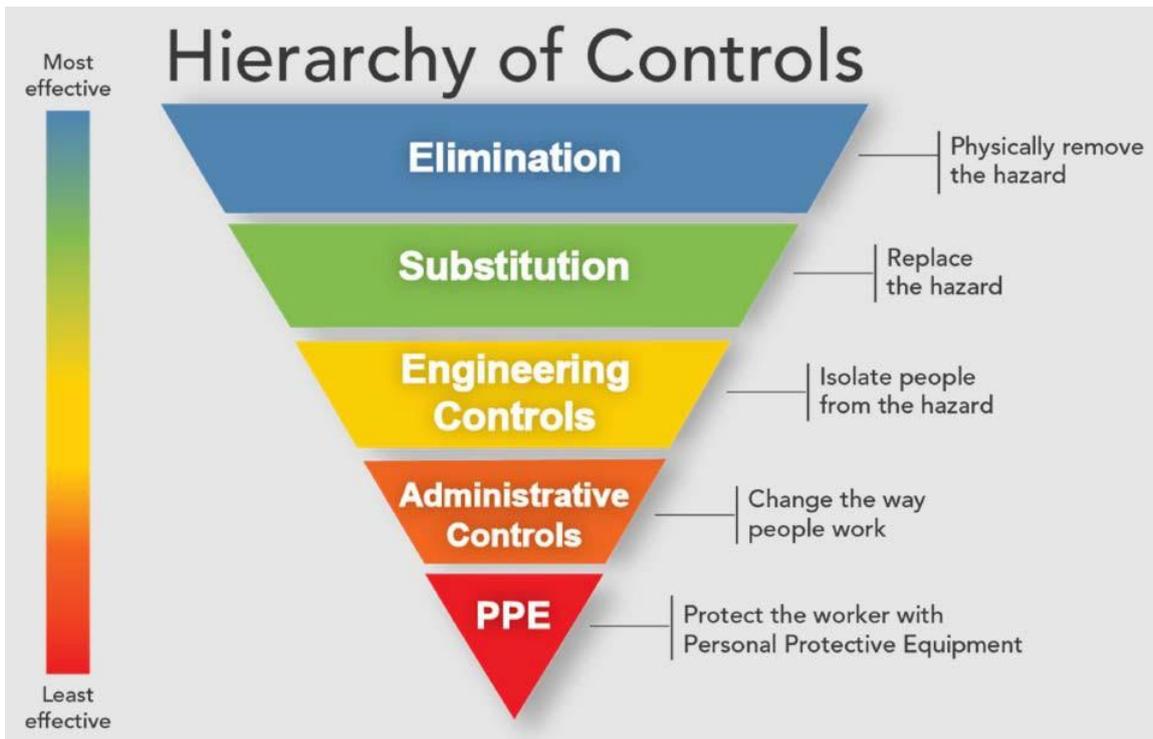
In order to determine a risk rating consider:

- the consequence - what will happen, the extent of harm; and
- the likelihood - chances or possibility of it occurring.

A risk assessment matrix modelled from examples given in *AS/NZS ISO 31000 Risk Management*. When conducting a risk assessment, include the people who are actually involved in undertaking the task. Experience is as important as a fresh perspective when undertaking risk assessment.

RISK CONTROL

In order to control the risk, we need to work out the best method of handling the risk. Look at the following methods, which are referred to as the 'hierarchy of controls', to see if you can eliminate or reduce the risk.



Often people pick the 'easier' option by going straight to administrative controls or PP but there are often more effective ways to control the hazard. In many cases consultation and discussion with the people involved reveals new ideas or better ways of handling hazards and reducing the risks of injury. Focus on what is both realistic and practical so that risks are minimised to an acceptable level. It is vital to ensure that risk assessment covers the entire event – from set up (bump in) to dismantling (bump out), not just during the event itself.

Most importantly, consult with those involved.

RISK ASSESSMENT TABLES

LIKELIHOOD

How likely is it to occur? (example of a risk table below)

Likelihood Ratings Table		
Likelihood	Description	Quantification
A Almost Certain	The event is expected to occur in normal circumstances. The event has occurred frequently in the past.	Several times a year.
B Likely	The event will probably occur. The event has occurred occasionally in the past.	Once a year.
C Possible	The event may occur sometime. There have been warning signs the event might occur.	Once every 5 years.
D Unlikely	The event could occur in some circumstances. No past event history.	Once every 20 years.
E Rare	The event may occur but only in exceptional circumstances. No past event history.	Once every 50 years or more.

CONSEQUENCE

What is likely to be the impact? (Below is a guide to use as a reference)

Consequence	Example Detail Description
5 Minimal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No injuries Low financial loss
4 Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid treatment On-site release of chemical immediately contained Temporary halt of event Medium financial loss
3 Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical treatment required On-site release of chemical contained with outside assistance Temporary halt of event requiring outside assistance (e.g. specialised maintenance, fire, Police) High financial loss
2 Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive injuries Loss of production capability Off-site release of chemical with no detrimental effects Halt of event requiring investigation and outside assistance (e.g. fire, police, ambulance, SafeWork NSW) Major financial loss
1 Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Death Toxic release off-site with detrimental effect Halt of production with investigation and potential prosecution (e.g. fire, police, ambulance, SafeWork NSW) Catastrophic financial loss

RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

RISK RATING

The risk matrix determines a 'risk rating', based on the likelihood and consequence of risk.

Risk Rating Matrix					
	Consequence				
Likelihood	5 Minimal	4 Minor	3 Moderate	2 Major	1 Severe
A Almost Certain	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
B Likely	Medium	Medium	High	High	Very High
C Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
D Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
E Rare	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

RATINGS

VH = Very High risk: immediate action required

H = High risk: senior management attention needed

M = Medium risk: responsibility must be specified

L = Low risk: manage by routine procedures

Risk assessment tables enable event organisers to allocate risk ratings to all hazards, so they can prioritise and address them in a system.

