

Risk Assessment

Concern: Failure to apply the Scout Safety Policy to properly assess the risk of every Scouting activity undertaken.

Purpose: Risk assessment should be done at the planning stage to identifying potential hazards, evaluating the associated risks, and identifying reasonably practicable control measures to prevent harm.

Types of Risk Assessment: There are many approaches to risk assessment. However, the two most likely to be used in scouting are:

Qualitative Risk Assessment: This type of risk assessment is based on judgement and experience. The risk is a combination of the likelihood of a hazardous event happening and the severity of the harm if it does happen.

Dynamic Risk Assessment: This deals with unpredictable, changing risk and hazard. It is not a substitute for a risk assessment carried out in advance. This risk assessments allows adaptations to change in circumstances as they occur, such as changes in weather.

Risk Matrix: This helps in deciding levels of risk and to make a judgement if controls are adequate.

Consequence / Severity	Multiple fatality	5	5	7	8	9	10	1	Think of all the hazards you could reasonably expect to find as part of the activity and record on the assessment form.	
	Single fatality	4	4	6	7	8	9	2	Think of all the possible consequences for each hazard and record and record on the assessment form.	
	Major injury	3	3	5	6	7	8	3	Allocate a severity score for each of the possible consequences.	
	Minor injury	2	2	4	5	6	7	4	Allocate a likelihood score for each of the possible consequences.	
	Delay	1	1	2	3	4	5	5	Add the severity and likelihood scores to give a risk score.	
			1	2	3	4	5			
		Improbable	Remote	May happen	Possible	Probable				
		Likelihood								
High Risk	8 - 10	Unacceptable. Controls required.							6	If the consequential risk score is greater than '5' further analysis is need to try and reduce the risk (so far as is reasonably practicable).
Moderate Risk	6 - 7	Tolerable - further analysis needed.							7	Review the risk score with control measures in place. If the risk is greater than '7' then the activity should not take place.
Low Risk	1 - 5	Broadly Acceptable - but, further reasonable controls may be possible.							8	Record the findings of the risk assessment and ensure all control measures are implemented.
Hazard	Something with the potential to cause harm.							9	Review the adequacy of arrangements during the activity and amend as necessary, to ensure all risks are managed as low as reasonably possible.	
Risk	The likelihood that the harm from a particular hazard is realised.							10	On completion of the activity record revise the risk assessment with any previously unforeseen hazards identified and control measures put in place.	

POR 2a.7.2 Responsibilities within the Safety Policy

All those involved in Scouts are accountable for, and must demonstrate an ability and understanding of the following, so far as is reasonably practicable, and to the extent of their role to:

- Ensure they are competent to undertake their task, through attending appropriate learning sessions, checking their understanding of instructions and information, and remaining current in these competencies.
- Properly assess the risk of every Scouting activity undertaken. This assessment should be suitable and sufficient for the activity being undertaken, and it follows that activities with higher risk should require more in-depth assessment.
- Provide clear instructions and information to anyone who requires this, be it adult volunteer or young person, in order to ensure any activity is conducted with safety and wellbeing in mind.
- Prevent incidents and cases of ill health by managing the health and safety risks in Scouts .
- Ensure that the environment they are working in, or using for Scouts' activities, is maintained safely and there are no risks to health. Also, that any equipment or substances used are safe and stored safely.
- Review risk assessments as often as necessary when circumstances, environment or conditions change.
- Never be afraid to change or stop an activity if risk increases.