

## Risk Assessment Guidance

### What is a Hazard?

A hazard is anything with the potential to cause harm or ill health to people, or damage to property

### Who might be harmed and how?

For each hazard identified, decide which individuals or groups of people might be harmed, in what numbers and the type of injury or ill-health that might occur.

### What are you already doing?

List systems and procedures that are currently in operation to reduce the hazard

## Likelihood

The likelihood of harm arising from a particular hazard is determined using the following criteria:

<b>Very Unlikely</b>	May occur only in exceptional circumstances.
<b>Unlikely</b>	May occur given an unlikely sequence of events and/or multiple failures.
<b>Likely</b>	Easily foreseeable under normal circumstances.

## Severity

The severity of harm arising from a particular hazard is determined using the following criteria:

<b>Slightly Harmful</b>	Minor injuries requiring first aid e.g. cuts and bruises. No lasting effects.
<b>Harmful</b>	Up to 3 days absence, flesh wound, bruising etc.
<b>Extremely Harmful</b>	Requires over 3 days off work or a hospital visit. Reportable to HSE. Single or multiple fatality, long term disability, loss of limb.

## Risk Rating

Having estimated the likelihood and severity of a hazard, decide on further action, as illustrated by the table below:

<b>Low (L)</b>	No further action but ensure risk control measures remain effective.
<b>Medium (M)</b>	Plan to improve risk control measures at time of next review, or sooner.
<b>High (H)</b>	Improve risk control measures, within a specified timescale.
<b>Very high (VH)</b>	Stop work activity immediately and make improvements to risk controls.

## Examples of Hazards

INDOOR HAZARDS	HAZARDS ON HILLS AND MOUNTAINS
Inappropriate lighting	Slips & trips on grass, mud, rock
Temperature	River crossings
Insufficient or unsuitable space	Remote locations
Untidiness – causing trip / fire hazard	Difficult communication – weather / distance
Stairs – dark / steep / no handrail	Falling debris
Lack of fire escapes / extinguishers / procedures	Extra work imposed by terrain type / angle
Slip / trip / fall hazards	Lack of shelter
Inadequate ventilation	Separation of group members
Inhalation of dust	Getting lost
Poor surfaces for activities – slips / trips / impact	Falls from height
Electrical hazards	Extremes of weather

  

SPORTING ACTIVITY HAZARDS	PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONAL HAZARDS
Uneven playing surface	Lack of information, training or instruction
Playing surface too hard or soft	Poor activity planning or preparation
Hard or sharp objects on pitch	Poor activity delivery or organisation
Sliding on AstroTurf or tarmac	Ignorance of rules and / or procedures
Collisions / Conflict with surrounding objects or people	Unsafe behaviour or attitude
Impact from sports equipment	Lack of appropriate first aid equipment and experience
Contact sport injury	Medical conditions of participants
Personal injury – fracture / sprains / cuts	Poor safety control from group leaders
	Poor safety awareness from participants
	Lack of cooperation within group
	Differing skill levels within group
	Low level of physical fitness / strength
	Aggression between participants
	Aggression from crowd / public
	Under 18's
	Contact between participants increasing risk

  

HAZARDS ON COASTS & COASTAL WATERS	EQUIPMENT AND OTHER HAZARDS
Falls from cliffs, piers, sea walls	Inadequate environment for equipment operation
Struck by falling objects from cliff	Transport to and from your activity
Slips & falls on slopes / loose surfaces	Food poisoning
Quick sand & mud	Hazardous substances
Access problems due to steep angle of beach slope	Equipment with moving / hot parts
Collisions between water users	Heavy equipment
Swept away by wave surges	Electrical hazards from equipment
Being washed against rocks / piers	Noise from equipment
Low water temperatures	Risk of trapping body / clothing in equipment
Communication problems from waves / swell / distance	
Struck by objects in water	
Stranded by tides	
Swept away by currents	
Rip tides	
Longshore drift	
Conflicts between beach users	

HAZARDS ON STILL / MOVING WATER
Getting swept away from equipment or people
Collision with rocks in and to sides of rivers
Striking / trapping by submerged obstacles
Being dragged down by undertow
Restricted or impossible access to / from water
Access problems – rescue / getting kit into water
Falls from drops in level at weirs / waterfalls
Getting out of depth
Low water temperature
Separation from other people
Slips / trips on steep banks or uneven surfaces
Difficult communications
Remote locations