



Your pocket How To! guide to Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is the evaluation of the risk involved in a particular situation. The use of a 5 x 5 matrix to quantitatively evaluate the risk associated with a hazard is widely accepted and is the system embedded in PSSLive.

This system uses the probability (or likelihood) that an accident may occur or be reasonably anticipated to occur as a result of the hazard, multiplied by the severity (or consequences / seriousness) of the injury that may result. The resulting score is then used to allocate a suitable time scale for action.

PROBABILITY

Scored from 1 to 5, the probability is the likelihood that an accident may occur or be reasonably anticipated to occur as a result of a particular hazard:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 | Highly Improbable | Highly Unlikely | Never Happens |
| 2 | Improbable | Unlikely | Rarely Happens |
| 3 | Occasional | Possible | Possibly Happens |
| 4 | Probable | Likely | Happens |
| 5 | Highly Probable | Highly Likely | Always Happens |

SEVERITY

Scored from 1 to 5, the severity is how serious the resulting injury would be if an accident were to occur:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| 1 | Little or No Injury | Minor bruises or grazes |
| 2 | Minor Injury | Cuts or bruises requiring 1st Aid |
| 3 | Moderate Injury | Lacerations or small bone fractures requiring medical care |
| 4 | Serious Injury | Concussion, long bone fractures or head and neck injuries |
| 5 | Severe Injury | Amputation, permanent disability or fatality |

RISK MATRIX: Risk Value = Probability X Severity

SEVERITY	5	1 x 5 = 5 LOW	2 x 5 = 10 MEDIUM	3 x 5 = 15 MEDIUM	4 x 5 = 20 HIGH	5 x 5 = 25 IMMEDIATE
	4	1 x 4 = 4 LOW	2 x 4 = 8 LOW	3 x 4 = 12 MEDIUM	4 x 4 = 16 HIGH	5 x 4 = 20 HIGH
	3	1 x 3 = 3 V LOW	2 x 3 = 6 LOW	3 x 3 = 9 LOW	4 x 3 = 12 MEDIUM	5 x 3 = 15 MEDIUM
	2	1 x 2 = 2 V LOW	2 x 2 = 4 LOW	3 x 2 = 6 LOW	4 x 2 = 8 LOW	5 x 2 = 10 MEDIUM
	1	1 x 1 = 1 V LOW	2 x 1 = 2 V LOW	3 x 1 = 3 V LOW	4 x 1 = 4 LOW	5 x 1 = 5 LOW
		1	2	3	4	5
		PROBABILITY				

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