

# Risk Assessment

## Introduction

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (NI) 2000 require that suitable and sufficient assessments of the risk arising out of work are carried out.

**Put simply, a risk assessment is finding out what could cause harm to people and deciding if you have done enough or need to do more to protect them.**

### The process of risk assessment

#### What can be risk assessed: -

A risk assessment can be undertaken on an object or substance, a process, a location, an activity, or a person.

- Divide the school into manageable categories.
- Identify hazards.
- Evaluate the risks.
- Prepare a plan for controlling the risk.
- Review and revise the assessment.

### What is a hazard?

A hazard is anything which can cause harm  
**e.g. electricity, chemicals, etc.**

### What is risk

#### Risk is:

The chance or likelihood that someone will be harmed to some extent by the hazard.

### How do I evaluate the risk?

In order to evaluate the risk you should consider both the severity of harm and the likelihood of that harm actually happening.

#### SEVERITY

Realistically what is the worst thing that could happen - See Risk Factor.

#### LIKELIHOOD

Make a judgement about the chance or likelihood of that injury or ill health happening - See Risk Factor.

## Evaluate the risk

When assessing a risk it is useful to apply a simple numerical value to the severity of injury and the likelihood of injury.

This provides the assessor with a clearer outcome in respect of the evaluation of the risk.

**SEVERITY** Realistically what is the worst thing that can happen.

**LIKELIHOOD** Realistically what is the likelihood of the injury happening.

## Risk factor

**Severity (What is the worst that can happen)**

Death   Major   Serious   Minor   Nil

**Likelihood**

Very Likely   Likely   Quite Possible   Possible   Not Likely

## Risk Factor

Severity x Likelihood = ? x ? = ?

**RISK - ?**

## Risk rating

25	Very High	Immediate Cessation of Activity
16 - 25	High	Suspend Process, Activity
12-15	Medium	Initiate repair or adequate containment of hazard

### Example 1 Risk assessment

HAZARD	PERSON EXPOSED	SEVERITY	LIKELIHOOD	RISK
Use of Ladder ■ Falls	All Staff	4	4	16
■ Failure of ladder		4	2	8
■ Items falling from ladder		4	3	12

### Action Plan

Hazard	Existing Precautions	Additional	Action By	Action By When
Fall from ladder	Instruction and training of all staff	Review training	Mr/s Green	Jan 2004
Items falling from ladder	Hand tools secured before ascent	Cordon off area around ladder	Mr/s White	Immediate
Failure of ladder	Annual safety inspection	None required at this time	Mrs White	-

### Example 2 Risk assessment

HAZARD	PERSON EXPOSED	SEVERITY	LIKELIHOOD	RISK
Icy Playground	School Population	4	4	16
Icy playground over which vehicles travel	School Population	5	4	20

### Action Plan

Hazard	Existing Precautions	Additional	Action By	Action By When
Falls	Surface salted prior to school population arriving	Ensure supply of salt in school prior to arrival of winter months	School	immediate
Personal Impact with vehicle	Surface salted prior to school population arriving	Stop / limit vehicles entering school grounds	Mr/s Smyth	immediate