

EVENT SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

(SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZED COMMUNITY EVENTS)

EVENT SAFETY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SHEET

September 2010

#3

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.

DISCLAIMER

This publication contains information regarding occupational health and safety.

It includes some of your obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety legislation that SafeWork SA administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate Acts and Regulations.

This publication may refer to legislation that has been amended or repealed. When reading this publication you should always refer to the latest laws.

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 4360:2004 Risk Management*, is provided on page 4. 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.

- Elimination – by removing the hazard entirely through new design or implementing a new process
- Substitution – by replacing hazardous materials or methods with less hazardous alternatives
- Engineering – by isolating, enclosing or containing the hazard or through design improvements
- Administrative – by ensuring safe operating procedures are in place, and that effective training, induction and monitoring is available to all in the workplace
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) – by making sure that appropriate safety equipment, such as gloves, hats, sunscreen etc. are available.

Often people pick the 'easier' option by going straight to administrative controls or PPE, 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?

Level	Descriptor	Example Detail Description
A	Almost certain	Is expected to occur in most circumstances
B	Likely	Will probably occur in most circumstances
C	Possible	Might occur at some time
D	Unlikely	Could occur at some time
E	Rare	May occur but only in exceptional circumstances

CONSEQUENCE

What is likely to be the impact?

Level	Descriptor	Example Detail Description
1	Insignificant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No injuriesLow financial loss
2	Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">First aid treatmentOn-site release of chemical immediately containedTemporary halt of eventMedium financial loss
3	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Medical treatment requiredOn-site release of chemical contained with outside assistanceTemporary halt of event requiring outside assistance (e.g. specialised maintenance, fire, police)High financial loss
4	Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Extensive injuriesLoss of production capabilityOff-site release of chemical with no detrimental effectsHalt of event requiring investigation and outside assistance (e.g. fire, police, ambulance, SafeWork SA)Major financial loss
5	Catastrophe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DeathToxic release off-site with detrimental effectHalt of production with investigation and potential prosecution (e.g. fire, police, ambulance, SafeWork SA)Catastrophic financial loss

RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

RISK RATING

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

CONSEQUENCE					
LIKELIHOOD*	Insignificant 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Catastrophic 5
A (Almost certain)	H	H	E	E	E
B (Likely)	M	H	H	E	E
C (Possible)	L	M	H	E	E
D (Unlikely)	L	L	M	H	E
E (Rare)	L	L	M	H	H

RATINGS

E = Extreme risk: immediate action required

H = High risk: senior management attention needed

M = Moderate risk: management 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 systematic way. Examples are shown on page 5, where the risk assessment process results in a Risk Control Plan or Risk Register.

RISK CONTROL PLAN – RISK REGISTER *(continued next page)*

These photos have been used as examples for the Risk Register (or Risk Control Plan).

Examples used are basic and may require a more detailed document, depending on your event size and specific hazards. This template is designed as a guideline to assist event planners in addressing their hazards in line with risk management processes.

Remember, consultation with those people involved in the tasks is crucial to this process.



Task or Issue/Hazard	Person affected/ location	Risk Rating	Risk Control Measures	By who when	Notes
Task: Manual Handling – lifting 4kg packs of bottles to restock (from truck or pallet to fridges) Hazards: back or shoulder strain or sprain	Restock staff (marquees/ tents)	D 2 LOW	Currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ trained in good lifting technique ✓ seek assistance if needed ✓ deliveries as close as possible to area ✓ sack trucks to be used where possible Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 more sack trucks to be purchased - training for new workers and refresher for existing staff 	Sue Blogg 1/11/06	Quote being obtained
Task: Animal parading/showing Hazards: injury to patrons if they come into contact with animal/injury to handler if animal uncontrollable	Animal handler/ patrons Main Arena	C 2 MEDIUM	Currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ areas roped and fenced off to keep patron distance ✓ signage advising patrons not to enter area ✓ only competent handlers allowed to enter arena ✓ supervisor located inside arena with walkie-talkie Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loudspeaker announcement advising patrons event about to commence and to keep behind fenced and roped areas (5 minutes prior and just before) - supervisor to be appointed to monitor event security 	John Doe 1/11/06	Handler meeting prior to event to advise of new changes
Issue: Electrical board outlet in publicly accessible area Hazards: injury if patrons or stall holders come into contact/accidental or deliberate tampering/hazardous for maintenance worker if busy, crowded area	Maint worker/ patrons 5 sites around ground	E 2 LOW	Currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ electrical installation completely guarded with fence ✓ locked and limited access to authorised personnel ✓ maintenance done out of hours or with security staff Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - signage to be erected on fence - location to be noted on site map for stall holders 	John Doe 15/10/06	Check there were no issues at event debrief meeting
Issue: Rubbish disposal Hazards: injury to patrons if trip over waste/potential injury if rubbish thrown as 'missiles' by unruly patrons/back injury by disposal contractor if too heavy or awkward to manoeuvre	Patrons/rubbish collectors Various locations	D 2 LOW	Currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ enclosed recycle bins for cans and separate food bins ✓ placed in appropriate areas and collected regularly ✓ on wheels so easy to handle Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor this (being done by contractor) - get report following event of how effective this procedure was 	Sue Blogg 30/11/06	Use feedback to improve (if needed) for next event
Issue: Amusement ride Hazards: injury to patrons or bystanders (falls or being hit by moving objects)/potential injury to maintenance person whilst repairing	Patrons/ bystanders Western corner	C 2 MEDIUM	Currently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ have received SafeWork SA registration certificate and certificate of currency for insurances from contractor ✓ contractor has trained personnel operating, supervising and repairing amusement ride ✓ has been set up with fencing and adequate space surrounding ride and signage for parent information Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contractor to provide feedback to event planner 	Sue Blogg 1/10/06	Discuss in much further detail with ride provider