### Risk Rating

Once identified, hazards should be assessed for potential severity of the consequences (the degree of harm), and likelihood of occurrence, to identify which ones to focus on.

***Assessing Likelihood***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Likelihood Levels** | **Description** |
| Almost Certain | Expected to occur at least once during the event |
| Likely | Will probably occur |
| Possible | It could occur, but only expected infrequently |
| Unlikely | It could only happen in unusual circumstances |
| Rare | It could only happen in exceptional circumstances |

***Assessing Consequence***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Severity Levels** | **Description** |
| Insignificant | No injury or very minor injury or illness.  Minimal impact on participation.  Temporary stress or embarrassment.  Minor or no damage to facilities or equipment.  Little or no environmental, financial, reputational or operational impact. |
| Minor | Injury or illness requiring First Aid.  Unable to fully participate in activity.  Stressed beyond comfort level.  Isolated and quickly repaired damage to facilities or equipment.  Some environmental, financial, reputational, or operational impact. |
| Moderate | Injury or illness that requires treatment by medical professional (with no permanent disability).  Must leave activity.  Very distressed. Requires on-site counselling or support.  Damage to facilities or equipment resulting in temporary inability to use it.  Localised environmental, financial, reputational, or operational impact. |
| Major | Serious injury or illness to one or more people, resulting in hospitalisation and possible permanent disability.  Therapy or counselling by a professional may be required.  Sustained or extensive damage to facilities or equipment.  Extensive environmental, financial, reputational or operational impact. |
| Catastrophic (critical) | One or more fatalities.  Post-traumatic stress disorder. Long term counselling / therapy is likely to be required.  Loss of facilities or equipment.  Significant and widespread environmental, financial, reputational or operational impact. |

*From: Overarching Managing Risk Guidance – Good Practice Guide Version 2 2019*

***Risk Assessment Matrix***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Likelihood of injury/harm** | **Severity of injury/harm** | | | |  | |
| Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | | Critical |
| No / Minor injuries | First Aid | Medical treatment | Extensive injuries | | Fatalities |
| Almost Certain | Medium | Medium | High | Extreme | | Extreme |
| Likely | Low | Medium | High | High | | Extreme |
| Possible | Low | Medium | High | High | | High |
| Unlikely | Low | Low | Medium | Medium | | High |
| Rare | Low | Low | Low | Medium | | High |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Risk Levels** | **Description** |
| Extreme | = Stop, look for alternatives!  **Unacceptable level of risk, don’t do it.** A considerable potential for fatalities, serious injuries or illness, post-traumatic stress, loss of facilities or equipment. Significant widespread environmental damage. Significant financial, reputational, or operational impact. |
| High | = Control to eliminate risk where possible  We need to do something about this risk to eliminate or minimise it. There is moderate potential for injuries, illness or stress requiring hospitalisation, therapy or counselling, the damage of facilities, equipment, or localised environmental damage. Moderate financial, reputational or operational impact. |
| Medium | = Control to minimise risk as far as reasonably practicable  We need to do something about this risk to eliminate or minimise it. There is some potential for injuries, illness or stress requiring medical treatment, support, the damage of facilities, equipment, or localised environmental damage. Some financial, reputational or operational impact. |
| Low | = Continue  Can retain the risk but need to be vigilant that the risk level does not rise. Minimal potential for injuries or illness (above those requiring simple First Aid), stress or embarrassment, or any consequential damage to facilities or equipment, or the environment. Little to no financial, reputational, or operational impact. |

NB: Assessing risk is not an absolute science:

* Multiple sources of information will help you derive a best estimate
* It is best considered by a team approach to achieve consensus.