

RISK ASSESSMENT

This is something we all do without realising it but now we need to be able to record: What, How, When, and Why. Here is a user-friendly summary of what to some can be daunting.

1. Why now?

- a. The OGA has a duty of care and must ensure that events are managed as safely as reasonably possible. To do this we need to manage and control risks both on and off the water, hence the need for Risk Assessments.
- b. A Risk Assessment is simply a careful examination of what could **cause harm to people** (ie the hazard). To mitigate that likelihood, measures can be put in place to eliminate or reduce that risk.

2. How should Risks be Assessed?

- a. It is widely accepted in industry that there are **5 steps** to Risk Assessment:

1. **Define** the scope
 - a. What is the activity?
 - b. Who is involved?
2. **Identify** the hazards
 - a. What could cause harm?
 - b. Look at the location
3. **Who** might be harmed and why
4. **Evaluate** the risks
 - a. Likelihood
 - b. Severity
5. **Record** the findings and implement the actions

- b. Carry out steps 1 and 2 above
- c. Here are steps 3, 4 and 5 with more detail

3. Who might be harmed and why, using the key factors below:

- a. the **Likelihood** of the risk occurring

combined with:

- b. what would be the **Severity** should it occur. Leads you to:

4. Evaluate/Quantify the Risks

- a. The risk assessments are quantified as follows:
- b. Assess the **Likelihood** of a risk occurring (L) rated on a scale from 0 to 5, using the grid below.

Likelihood L

Score	Definition
0	Zero to very low
1	Very unlikely
2	Unlikely
3	Likely
4	Very likely
5	Almost certain

- c. Next, assess the impact or severity (**S**) should that risk occur, also on a scale of 0 to 5, using the next grid.

Severity S

Score	Definition
0	Little or no injury or inconvenience
1	Minor difficulty or injury
2	Moderate injury or illness possibly needing First Aid
3	More significant injury or illness
4	Major injury or illness needing the emergency services
5	Fatality

- d. Then simply multiply **L** by **S** to give an overall risk rating (**RR**).

$$\text{Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) = Risk Rating (RR)}$$

The lower the **RR** score, the lower the perceived risk.

5. Record the Risk Assessment

Once assessed, the risks can be recorded on a simple form or on a risk matrix; dated and reviewed periodically.

No.	Hazard <i>What is the risk and how likely is it to occur?</i>	Risk rating <i>Before taking action</i>			Mitigation <i>What action is needed to remove or reduce the risk?</i>	Residual Risk <i>After mitigation</i>		
		L	S	RR		L	S	RR

Risk Matrix

Risks can be presented visually using a risk matrix with each risk number inserted according to its rating.

Likelihood (L) x Severity (S) = Risk Rating (RR)

Severity (S)							
Likelihood (L)		0 Little or no injury	1 Minor injury	2 Moderate injury	3 Significant injury	4 Major injury	5 Fatality
	5 Almost certain	0	5	10	15	20	25
	4 Very likely	0	4	8	12	16	20
	3 Likely	0	3	6	9	12	15
	2 Unlikely	0	2	4	6	8	10
	1 Very Unlikely	0	1	2	3	4	5
	0 Zero to very low	0	0	0	0	0	0