

Risk matrix

Severity		Trivial	Minor:- (slightly harmful)	Serious:- (harmful)	Major1:- (extremely harmful)	Major 2:- (possible fatality)
		1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood	Very unlikely	1	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
Possible	Likely	3	6	9	12	15
	Very likely	4	8	12	16	20
Certain	Very likely	5	10	15	20	25
	Certain	6	12	18	24	30

Risk level = Likelihood x Severity (e.g. 3 x 3 = 9 which is a medium risk).

Table 1. Risk levels		
Score 6 or less =	Low	Suggests a controlled or insignificant risk. However the hazard must be kept under review.
Score 8-12 =	Medium	Action required to eliminate or control the risk but not immediately
Score 15-18 =	High	Urgent action to eliminate or adequately control the risk is required
Score 20 or above =	Very high	The risk is imminent and indicates the activity should cease until the risk has been eliminated or adequately controlled

Table 2: Guide to assessing and scoring the Likelihood:					
Very Unlikely	1	Unlikely	2	Possible	3
Likely	4	Very Likely	5	Certain	6

Table 3: Guide to assessing and scoring the Severity:		
Trivial	1	Delay only or minor property damage, no injury
Minor (Slightly harmful)	2	Bruising, minor cuts, light abrasions. Chemical effects are limited to mild irritation of skin or eyes, headaches, ill-health leading to temporary discomfort. Minor property damage.
Serious (Harmful)	3	Loss of consciousness, lacerations, concussion, serious sprains, minor fractures, deafness, asthma, burns, or injury resulting in absence from work for more than three days. Chemical effects: Could be harmful if inhaled or swallowed or with skin contact resulting in dermatitis or ill health leading to permanent minor disability etc. Serious property damage confined to a workroom or area. Presence of oxidising, flammable and highly flammable substances.
Major (1) (Extremely harmful)	4	Permanent disability or other reportable injury/disease (e.g. amputations, major fractures). Chemical effects: Could be toxic by inhalation, swallowing or skin contact, could cause damage to eyes or respiratory system, skin sensitization or have fertility effects. Prolonged exposure risks could produce carcinogenic effects, severely life shortening diseases, acute fatal diseases. Major property damage affecting the building. Significant quantities of extremely flammable & explosive substances.
Major (2)	5	Could result in fatal incidents or property damage involving the loss of one or more buildings. Chemical effects: Probable carcinogen; may cause sensitization by inhalation.