

# Risk Assessment Matrix

## Introduction:

While risk assessment is an important part of the process for managing OHS risks, you may not need to conduct a formal assessment if a risk is well known and the solution is obvious.

As a general guide, a risk assessment should be done if:

- there is only limited knowledge or disagreement about a hazard,
- there is uncertainty about whether all of the things that can go wrong have been found, and/or
- the situation involves a number of different hazards that are part of the same work process, substance or item of plant and there is a lack of understanding about how the hazards may impact on each other to produce new or greater risks.

## Assessing OHS Risks

Risk assessments in matters of Occupational Health and Safety\* are based on 2 key factors:

- the severity of any injury/illness resulting from the hazard(s), and
- the likelihood that the injury/illness will actually occur.

*\*Note: In matters other than OHS (Security, Enterprise Risk Management, etc.) other risk assessment methods may be used.*

		LIKELIHOOD			
		Very Unlikely Could happen, but probably never will	Unlikely Could happen, but very rarely	Likely Could happen sometime	Very likely Could happen any time
SEVERITY	Death or permanent disability	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME	EXTREME
	Long-term illness or serious injury	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	EXTREME
	Medical attention and short-term incapacity	VERY LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
	First aid needed	VERY LOW	VERY LOW	LOW	MEDIUM

*Assessment of risk level based on likely severity and probability of harm*

**Warning – Uncontrolled when printed! The current version of this document is kept on the University website.**