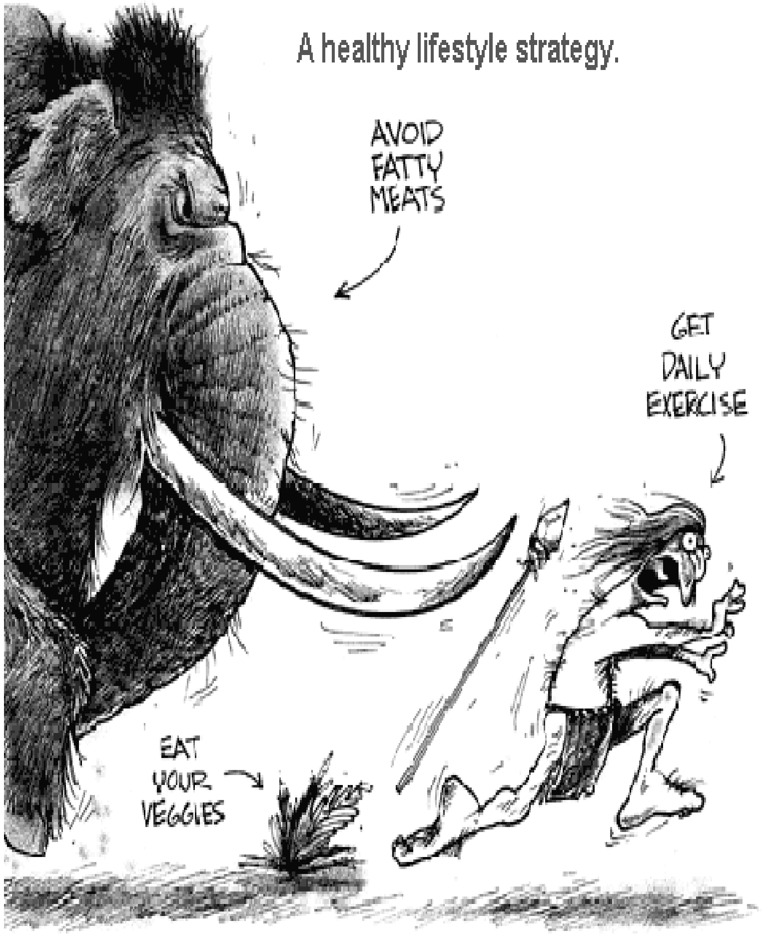
Health and Safety Management

Using the Task Based Risk Assessment Approach

- There is nothing special about risk assessments, the human race has been carrying out risk assessments ever since the first caveman went hunting for dinner, his assessment was
- “will I eat it”
- or “will it eat me “



Why are risk assessments important?

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999) require employers to assess the risks of activities, introduce measures to control those risks and tell their employees about these measures.

- Risk assessments provide the fundamental intelligence on the hazards, risks and precautions for carrying out an activity

Why are risk assessments important?

- A risk assessment is an important step in protecting workers, as well as complying with the law.

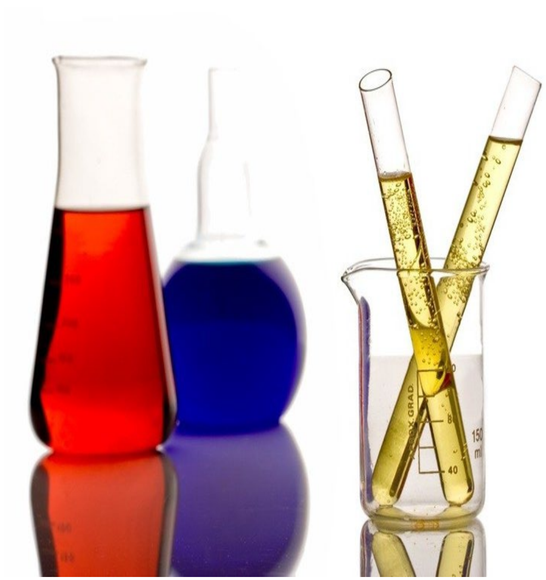
- It should focus on the risks that really matter in the workplace – the ones with the potential to cause real harm.

Risk Assessments & The Law

- The law does not expect you to eliminate all risk, but you are required to protect people as far as ‘reasonably practicable’.

Hazard

- A hazard is anything that may cause harm, such as chemicals, electricity, working from ladders,



Risk

- The risk is the chance, high or low, that somebody could be harmed by these and other hazards, together with an indication of how serious the harm could be.



Types of Risk Assessments

- Generic risk assessment - The risks inherent in the activity
- Site-specific risk assessment - The risks associated with the site
- Point of work risk assessment - The risks at the time

What is point of work Assessment?

- Traditional risk assessment is about identifying risks in the workplace so that you can implement suitable controls.

- But what about when work activities involve fluid environments, where individual workers need to make quick mental assessments and manage risks "on the hoof"?

What is point of work Assessment? (POW)

- "continuous assessment of risk in the rapidly changing circumstances of a workplace, in order to implement the control measures necessary to ensure an acceptable level of safety".

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

Regulation 3 Risk Assessment

- Every employer shall make a suitable and sufficient assessment of:
- The risks to the health and safety of all his **employees** to which they are exposed whilst they are at work; and
- The risks to the health and safety of **persons not in his employment** arising out of or in connection with the conduct of his work

Risk Assessment

Work activity being assessed:		Location:	Assessment No:
Assessor:	Signed:	Date prepared:	Review date:

Key to assessment	Risk value:	**Low** Slightly harmful –Trivial impact / damage quickly repaired		**Medium** Harmful – Moderate impact / partial loss of operations		**High** Very harmful – Intolerable with very serious consequences	
	People at risk:	☒ Site personnel	☐ Client personnel		☐ General public	☐ Other	

Hazards	**Initial risk value** **Low** – **Medium** – **High**	**Precautions / control measures required to reduce the level of risk to the lowest practicable level**	**Residual risk value** **Low** – **Medium** – **High**
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Risk Evaluation
“Severity”

High

- Very harmful – Intolerable with very serious consequences

Medium

- Harmful – Moderate impact / partial loss of operations

Low

- Slightly harmful –Trivial impact / damage quickly repaired

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment

1 Identify the hazards

2 Decide who might be harmed and how

3 Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions

4 Record your findings and implement them

5 Review and revise if necessary

Step 1 – Identify the hazards

- First you need to work out how people could be harmed. When you work in a place every day it is easy to overlook some hazards
- Walk around your workplace and look at what could reasonably be expected to cause harm.
- Ask your employees what they think. They may have noticed things that are not immediately obvious to you.

Step 1 – Identify the hazards

- Visit the HSE website (www.hse.gov.uk). HSE publishes practical guidance on where hazards occur and how to control them.
- If you are a member of a trade association, contact them, many produce very helpful guidance.

Step 1 – Identify the hazards

- Have a look back at your accident and ill-health records – these often help to identify the less obvious hazards.

- Check manufacturers' instructions or data sheets for chemicals and equipment as they can be very helpful in spelling out the hazards and putting them in their true perspective.

Step 1 – Identify the hazards

- Remember to think about long-term hazards to health (e.g. high levels of noise or exposure to harmful substances) as well as safety hazards.

Step 2 - Decide who might be harmed and how

- For each hazard you need to be clear about who might be harmed; it will help you identify the best way of managing the risk. That doesn’t mean listing everyone by name, but rather identifying groups of people (e.g. ‘people working in the storeroom’ or ‘passers-by’).

- In each case, identify how they might be harmed, i.e. what type of injury or ill health might occur.

Step 2 - Decide who might be harmed and how

- Some workers have particular requirements, e.g. new and young workers, new or expectant mothers and people with disabilities may be at particular risk.

- Extra thought will be needed for some hazards; cleaners, visitors, contractors, maintenance workers etc., who may not be in the workplace all the time

Step 2 - Decide who might be harmed and how

- Members of the public, if they could be hurt by your activities.

- If you share your workplace, you will need to think about how your work affects your neighbours.

Step 3 - Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions

- Having spotted the hazards, you then have to decide the level of **severity** and what to do about them.
  - The law requires you to do everything **'reasonably practicable'** to protect people from harm.
- You can work this out for yourself, but the easiest way is to compare what you are doing with good practice.

Step 3 - Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions

- So first, look at what you’re already doing, think about what controls you have in place and how the work is organised. Then compare this with the good practice

- See if there is more you should be doing to bring yourself up to standard.

Step 3 - Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions

- Can I get rid of the hazard altogether?
- If not, how can I control the risks so that harm is unlikely?
- When controlling risks, apply these principles, if possible in the following order

Step 3 - Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions

- Try a less risky option (e.g. switch to using a less hazardous chemical – Principles of Prevention)
- prevent access to the hazard (e.g. by guarding)
- organise work to reduce exposure to the hazard (e.g. put barriers between pedestrians and traffic)

Step 3 - Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions

- Issue personal protective equipment (e.g. clothing, footwear, goggles etc.)
- Provide welfare facilities (e.g. first aid and washing facilities for removal of contamination).

ERIC IITS

- E limination or Substitution
- R educe
- I solaltion / segregation
- C ontrol (engineering)

- I nfomation
- I nstruction
- T raining
- S upervision

Severity	
Severe	= 5
Major	= 4
Moderate	= 3
Minor	= 2
Insignificant	= 1

Likelihood	
Almost certain	= 5
Likely	= 4
Possible	= 3
Unlikely	= 2
Rare	= 1

BSG Risk Assessment Matrix

Likelihood	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Rare	1	2	3	4	5
Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
Possible	3	6	9	12	15
Likely	4	8	12	16	20
Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25

Step 4 - Record your findings and implement them

- When writing down your results, keep it simple, for example

  - ‘Tripping over rubbish: bins provided, staff instructed, weekly housekeeping checks’
  - ‘Fume from welding: local exhaust ventilation used and regularly checked’.

Step 4 - Record your findings and implement them

- You need to be able to show that:
  - A proper check was made
  - You asked who might be affected
  - You dealt with all the significant hazards, taking into account the number of people who could be involved

Step 4 - Record your findings and implement them

- The precautions are reasonable, and the remaining risk is low; and you involved your staff or their representatives in the process.

Step 5 - Review your risk assessment and update if necessary

- Few workplaces stay the same. Sooner or later, you will bring in new equipment, substances and procedures that could lead to new hazards.

- Every year, a change in legislation, accident or near miss

Step 5 - Review your risk assessment and update if necessary

- Look at your risk assessment again. Have there been any changes? Are there improvements you still need to make?

- Have your workers spotted a problem?

What if the work I do tends to vary a lot, or I (or my employees) move from one site to another?

- Identify the hazards you can reasonably expect and assess the risks from them.
- This general assessment should stand you in good stead for the majority of your work.

What if the work I do tends to vary a lot, or I (or my employees) move from one site to another?

- Where you do take on work or a new site that is different, cover any new or different hazards with a specific assessment.

- You do not have to start from scratch each time.

The Building Safety Group

BSG Construction Demo

Assessment Name: Working at height: Fall Arrest Harnesses

Location: BS35 3QH

Created By: **The Building safety Group Ltd**

Created On: **18 May**

Persons at Risk: Site Personnel
Client Personnel
General Public
Other

Review Date:
June

	Hazard	Risk	Severity	Likelihood	Risk	Controls	Residual Risk	Risk
	Bad Weather	Medium	2	5	10	Ensure that work at height is only carried out in good weather, wind speed not to exceede 25mph, and when it is not raining	2	4
	Incorrect use of harness	Serious or fatal injury	4	2	8	Personnel must be competent and trained in the use, fitting and adjustment of the harness and equipment and follow manufacturer's instructions. There should be a minimum of slack in the lanyard or safety line between the person and attachment to the anchorage at all times.	1	4
	Failure of anchor point	Serious or fatal injury	5	1	5	Suitable anchorage/ attachment points, of sufficient strength and capable of withstanding fall arrest forces, must be available on structures Fixed anchor points should subject to regular pull out tests	1	5