

Risk Assessment Template

A risk assessment is a vital element of health and safety management and its main objective is to determine the measures required to comply with statutory guidelines under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated regulations to reduce the chance of incidents/accidents. When conducting activities outdoors, as part of a school activity or as part of one of Earthwatch's activities, a risk assessment should be undertaken.

When conducting a risk assessment, you should have adequately assessed the outdoor space for hazards, deciding who may be harmed and by what activities and considered the measures that you will put in place so that risks are controlled and injuries are unlikely. Risk Assessments should be reviewed regularly, but especially when there have been significant changes to the outdoor spaces.

We have provided an example risk assessment below, as well as a copy of the risk assessment matrix. You may have a school risk assessment that should be used also. If you need more information, speak to your designated Health and Safety lead or the teacher responsible for risk assessments in your school. The process should not be onerous, but risk assessments should be based on the five-step approach detailed in the Outdoor Learning handbook.



RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX						
LIKELIHOOD OF RISK		MINIMAL: VERY MINOR INJURIES OR RESULT	LOW: INJURIES OR RESULT REQUIRING FIRST AID TREATMENT	MEDIUM: SIGNIFICANT INJURY, REQUIRING TREATMENT BEYOND FIRST AID	HIGH: SEVERE INJURIES OR RESULT, PERMANENT DISABILITY OR DEATH	VERY HIGH: MULTIPLE DEATHS
	REMOTE	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	LOW RISK
	UNLIKELY	LOW RISK	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK
	POSSIBLE	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	UNACCEPTABLE RISK	UNACCEPTABLE RISK
	HIGHLY LIKELY	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	UNACCEPTABLE RISK	UNACCEPTABLE RISK

For more information on Health and Safety at Work visit: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm>

There is also a useful section called Mythbusters to clarify any questions you might have around Risk Assessments and Health and Safety: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/index.htm>