

Understanding Risk Assessment for Funeral / Mortuary Services

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Aims

- Understand what is meant by Risk Assessment
 - Difference between **Hazard** and **Risk**
 - Understand how risks are managed with **control measures**
- Understand the 5 steps needed to complete a risk assessment

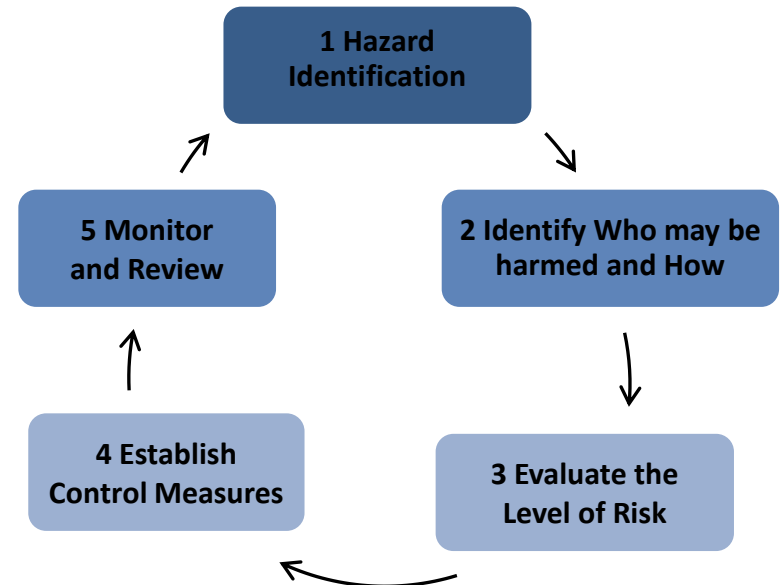
Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

- Requirement on employers to formally assess risks to employees and others arising from their work activities

Risk Assessment Stages

There are 5 basic stages to the assessment process

1. Hazard Identification
2. Identify Who may be Harmed
3. Evaluate the Level of Risk
4. Establish Control Measures
5. Monitor and Review



Stage 1 – Hazard Identification

What is a Hazard?

Hazard - A hazard is something (e.g. an object, a property of a substance, a phenomenon or an activity) that can cause harm.

For example:

- Water on a staircase is a hazard, because you could slip on it, fall and hurt yourself
- Loud noise is a hazard because it can cause hearing loss
- Breathing in asbestos dust is a hazard because it can cause cancer

Types of Hazard

- **Biological**
 - infection, (unknown / known, decomposition)
- **Physical**
 - weight of deceased, sharps, foreign objects (including pacemakers), electrical, wet floor
- **Chemical**
 - fixatives (formalin, embalmed bodies), cleaning solutions / detergent

Stage 2 – Identify who may be harmed

Who may be harmed

- **Staff**

NB this will include staff who are not employed to work directly in the mortuary e.g. domestics, porters, clinical and ward staff

- **Visitors**

e.g. external forensic teams, police, funeral directors, relatives of the deceased, contractors, inspectors

Stage 3 – Evaluate the risk (Risk rating)

Definition

Risk

A risk is the chance, high or low, that any hazard will actually cause somebody harm.

Risk rating

- It is a way of **quantifying** the risk associated with your activity.
- Graded using a traffic light system:

Risk Matrix

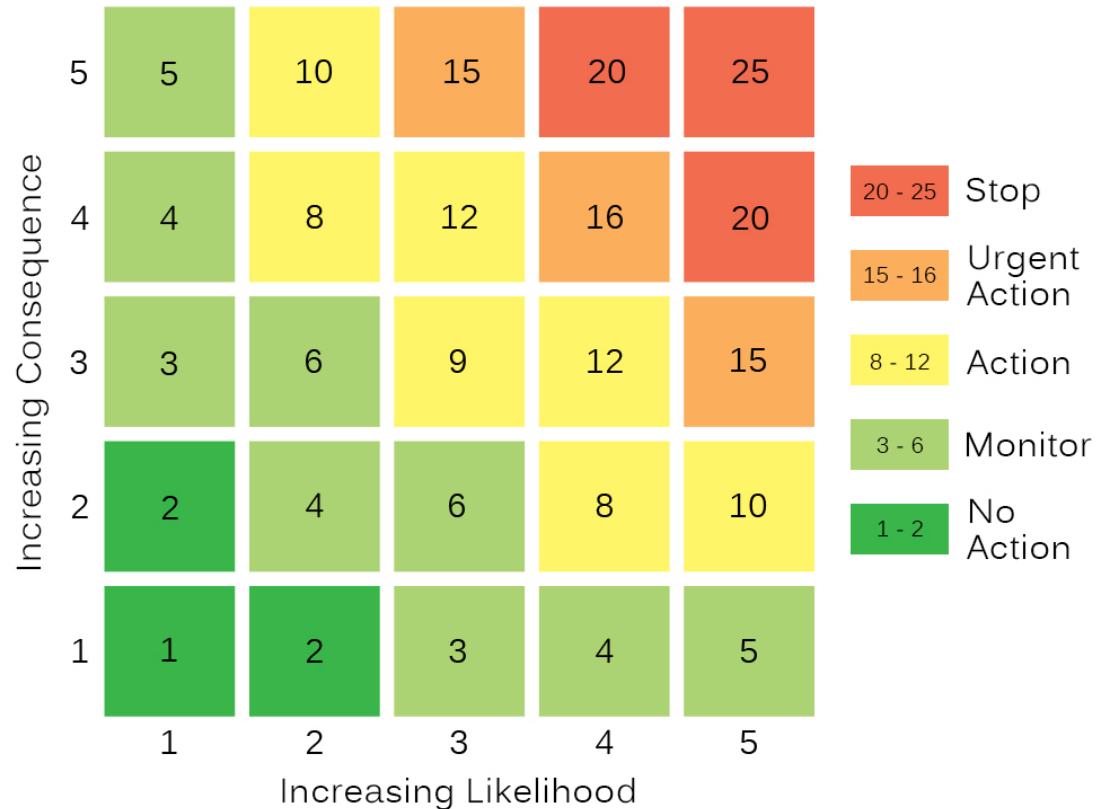
Likelihood		Very Likely	Likely	Unlikely	Highly Unlikely
Consequences	Fatality	High	High	High	Medium
	Major Injuries	High	High	Medium	Medium
	Minor Injuries	High	Medium	Medium	Low
	Negligible Injuries	Medium	Medium	Low	Low

Risk rating score

Consequence (Impact) x Likelihood = Risk rating

Risk rating matrix:

Aim to have all risk ratings for a given procedure at green



Stage 4 - Establish control measures

Control measures:

Control measures are used to reduce risks and could include:

- Procedure or protocols (e.g. SOPs)
- Training/education plans
- Maintenance procedures
- Personal protective equipment available
- Signs and signals in use

If risk rating still amber or above then **additional new control measures** may be needed!

Stage 5 - Monitor and Review

- **Risk Assessments should be reviewed regularly and following:**
 - Incident
 - Complaint
 - Change of practice
 - Change of equipment
 - Change of cleaning products or reagents
 - Change in layout or location

Any questions?

Further information: Website Module 2