

Hazard Assessment Matrix

Determining the Degree of Risk

<u>SEVERITY</u>	<u>LIKELIHOOD</u>				
	Frequent	Likely	Possible	Rare	Unlikely
Catastrophic	Critical	Critical	High	Medium	Low
Severe	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Low
Moderate	High	Medium	Low	Low	Slight
Minor	Medium	Low	Low	Slight	Slight

Use the chart to determine the degree of risk for each hazard you identify. Ask:

- What is the Risk Factor?
- Severity: How serious is the potential problem? Will it cause
 - harm to employees
 - damage to property
- Likelihood: How likely is it that an incident would occur from this risk factor?

For example:

Chemicals are stored in a closet on the 2nd floor. The chemicals are caustic and can cause harm if splashed on the skin.

The harm to employees would be severe. But the closet is in a properly ventilated secured area, and the only person with access is the maintenance supervisor who is trained on safe handling of the chemicals and has the proper PPE. Also, the chemicals are only used for special projects that happen once a year. So the likelihood of an incident is rare – bringing the risk level down to “Low”.

However, if the area is unsecure, untrained staff have access to the chemicals, and they are often used, then the risk is severe and likely, making the risk level “High”.