

RISK MANAGEMENT



Stage I: Before heading to the Woods

Part I – Risk Management Model

Stage I - Planning

A **Risk** is an uncertainty or probability concerning the **loss of resources**.

Risk Management Plans are systems to **identify**, **evaluate**, **reduce**, **prevent** or **control** loss of resources.

Why Have a Plan?

- **Create a reasonable sense of safety, security and comfort for participants**
- **Create ways to provide programs without undue risk**
- **Protects organizations resources**
- **Encourages compliance with best practices in the industry**
- **Protects and prepares you from undue liability exposure**

Safety Management

- Risk Management is a systemic approach geared to the total organization's best interests.
 - Organizational Survival
- Safety Management is a systematic approach focused on the health and safety of program participant's interests
 - People's Survival

Risk Management Planning

- **Risk Analysis** - identification and assessment
- **Risk Response** - control strategies

Risk Identification

- **Tangible** Assets
- **Intangible** Assets

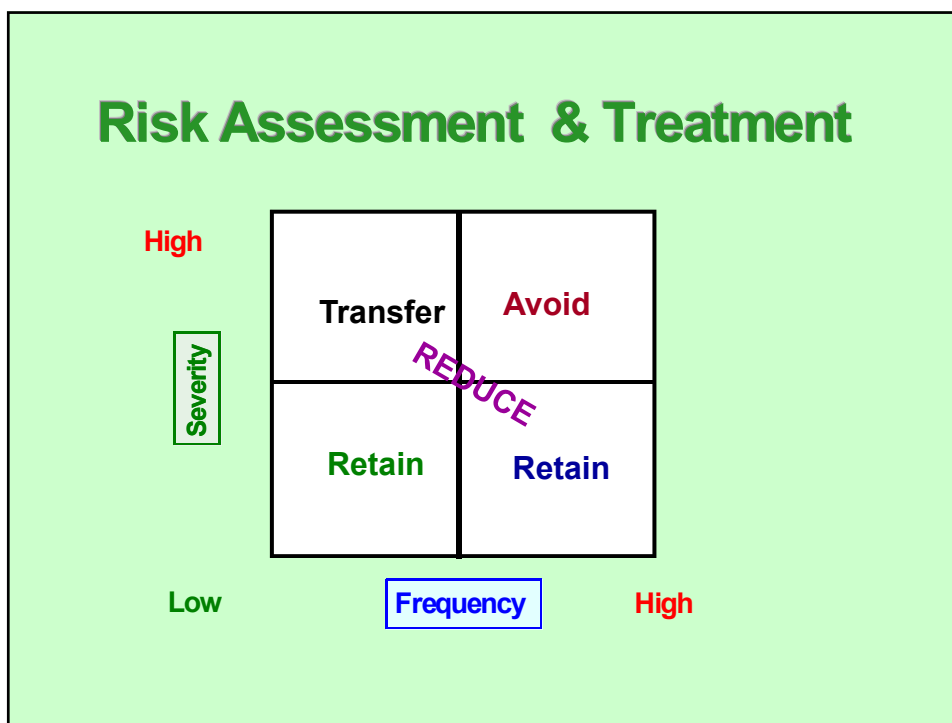
Risk Exposures

- **Human**
- **Financial**
- **Property**

Let's identify some risks in _____ activity.

Risk Response

- **Transfer**
- **Reduce**
- **Retain**
- **Avoid**



So let's get practical

1. Every “activity” we conduct conducts a risk assessment and response process when planning.
2. Every “course area” is examined by risk assessment and response when planning.

So let's get practical - Outcomes

1. WE Think Before We Go.

- a. We use the Risk ID and Risk Response (The 4 Quadrant Model)
- b. We think with program directors & coordinators
- c. Some places we decide NOT to go
- d. Some activities we decide NOT to do
- e. Our SOPs represent protocols we follow based on our analysis.
- f. As much as possible we have anticipated our risks before we pack our bags

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Stage II: Thinking About Risk when in the Woods

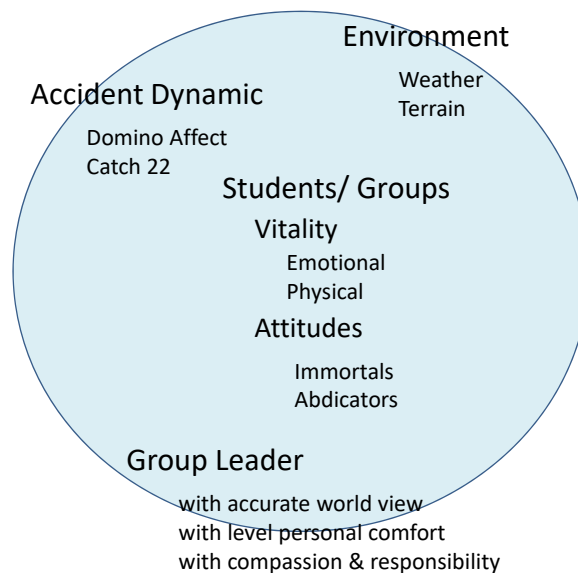


Good judgment comes from experiences you survived
and from good thinking skills you practice!
Safety depends not only on your pre-trip planning;
But on your judgement (thinking skills) in the field.
Use this 'judgment' model in the field in addition to your SOPs
and Checklists.

The Accurate World View Model

- A model that identifies several key factors about how to think about safety in the outdoor environment.
- Adapted and expanded from work by Jim Udall
- The Key Pieces
 - Accident Dynamics
 - Physical Environments
 - People Factors
 - Instructor Attitudes

Accurate World View



The rule of accident dynamics

- “If accidents happened when we thought they would, they wouldn’t.” (The Catch 22 of Accidents)
 - Obviously you would intervene
 - Many accidents can be avoided because we train our brains to think ‘consequentially’.
 - Simple concept – hard to develop
- The “Domino Affect” of Accidents
 - Most accidents in the outdoors are not the result of one single action but many smaller actions that end up with a ‘big deal’ outcome
 - E.G. A “Fall” from height – the early dominoes?
 - Fatigue, dehydration, inadequate gear to stay dry, no experience with wet surfaces: all contributing to a stumble that became a fall

The rule of dynamic environments

- Outdoor environments (and most other environments) are 'dynamic' rather than 'static'
- The human mind is drawn toward stability
- Train your mind to look for changes especially in 'weather' and 'terrain'
 - The river or snow pack today is not the same terrain it was last week or today or this morning
 - The weather is always changing
 - Accident stories

Assessing Participants

- People in your care can contribute to their own accident by classic behaviors – 'read your people' – **Student Behaviors**
- Examples include
 - The Immortals – clear disregard for dangers in the situation because IT would not happen to them
 - The Distractors – no awareness of the danger because they are distracted (by electronics or talking or self-absorption)
 - The Abdicators – the highly dependent personalities who want to hand all their safety to you – very compliant sheep.
 - Others?
 - Immortals need grounding; Distractors need awakening; Abdicators need empowering
- **Vitality Levels** is linked to accidents. Monitor your people's energy levels. Know when to rest or bivouac.

Assessing Your Leader Role

- People are in your care – if it's "all about you" the hotshot leader rather than 'you' the servant leader then you will be thinking about you rather than them and you are dangerous.
- Personal comfort zone – the program might be designed to take participants out of their comfort zone but you must be in yours both emotionally and physically. Physically exhausted and emotionally stressed out leaders are dangerous
- Think accurately about the 'world' around you.

Accurate World View

