Imperial College London

Risk Matrix for use during RAFT – Risk Assessment Foundation Course

To find the **risk score**, decide how severe (s) you think an outcome will be (minor to fatal) and note the score. Then decide how probable (P) it is to occur (very unlikely to likely) and note the score. Multiply the two together to get the risk score, and plot it on the table. Anything in the red is unacceptable and more controls will be needed – or in some cases, immediate action.

Risk Level	
Low	
Medium	
High	
Very high	

RISK SCORE = S X P		SEVERITY OF OUTCOME (S)			
		Minor	Serious	Major	Fatal
P R O B A B I L I T Y (P)	Very Unlikely	1	2	3	4
	Unlikely	2	4	6	8
	Possible	3	6	9	12
	Likely	4	8	12	16

Category	SEVERITY (s) Examples	Score
MINOR	Superficial injuries - cuts, bruises, mild skin irritation, mild aches and pains – requiring first aid only. Minor property damage.	1
SERIOUS	More serious injuries or ill-health, requiring time off work or study or a hospital visit, e.g. burns, sprains, strains and short-term musculoskeletal disorders, cuts requiring stitches, back injuries, fractures to fingers or toes. More serious property damage.	2
MAJOR	Broken limbs, amputations, long-term health problems resulting from work, or acute illness requiring medical treatment, loss of consciousness, serious electric shock, loss of sight. Major property damage.	3
FATAL	Injury or ill-health which leads to death either at the time or soon after the incident, or eventually, as in the case of certain occupational diseases, such as asbestos-related cancers.	4

- These tables are designed to help you to gauge whether your risks are low or high.
- However, there are many factors that affect one's judgment of risk – for example, you may not have all the information you need to make a realistic assessment. Lack of space, lack of training, working to deadlines, and working late and alone could all act as risk increasing factors.
- Your assessment of risk will always be subjective, as it depends on not only your knowledge and experience but also the information you have available. The more information you have, the more accurate the assessment will be.
- Remember, any effective, appropriate control measures will lower risk.

Category	PROBABILITY (p) The *likelihood* of the hazard causing harm (example for guidance only - some or all may apply for each category)	Score
VERY UNLIKELY	Good control measures are in place. Controls do not rely on a person using them (i.e. personal compliance). Controls are very unlikely to break down. People are very rarely in this area or very rarely engage in this activity.	1
UNLIKELY	Reasonable control measures are in place but they do rely on a person using them (some room for human error). Controls unlikely to breakdown. People are not often in this area / do not often engage in this activity / this situation is unlikely	2
POSSIBLE	Inadequate controls are in place, or likely to breakdown if not maintained. Controls rely on personal compliance. People are sometimes in this area or sometimes engage in this activity / this situation sometimes arises	3
LIKELY	Poor or no controls in place. Heavy reliance on personal compliance (lots of room for human error). People are often in this area / engage in this activity on a regular basis / this situation often arises.	4