

# Risk Assessment Worksheet

What Is It, How Is It Different from a JHA, and How Do I Use It?

Risk Assessment Worksheets (RAWs) are the new project hazard analysis tools for determining hazards and discussing mitigation on trail projects.

## How does the RAW differ from the JHA?

The RAW is meant to be more iterative and interactive than the JHA. It's a more formalized way of talking about risk in order to better and more systematically determine the danger of those risks. It's like the OHLEC system for risk assessment.

## What Does RAC and the color code in the column below mean?

Many of the terms are familiar from the JHA. The major new one is the acronym RAC. That stands for Risk Assessment Code, and there are 4 codes, and the codes are determined by combining the severity and probability of the hazard. There are 4 degrees of severity and 5 degrees of probability.

The degrees of severity, degrees of probability, and how they combine into the RAC is shown

Risk Assessment Matrix		Probability <i>Likelihood of Mishap if Hazard is Present</i>				
		Almost Certain (Continuously experienced)	Likely (Will occur frequently)	Possible (Will occur several times)	Unlikely (Remotely possible but not probable)	Rare (Improbable; but has occurred in the past)
Severity/ Consequences <i>Consequence if Mishap Occurs</i>	<b>Catastrophic</b> (Imminent and immediate danger of death or permanent disability; major property or facility damage; loss of critical system or equipment)	Extremely High	Extremely High	Extremely High	High	Moderate
	<b>Critical</b> (Permanent partial disability, temporary total disability; moderate environmental damage; extensive damage to equipment)	Extremely High	Extremely High	High	Moderate	Moderate
	<b>Moderate</b> (Hospitalized minor injury, reversible illness; minor damage to equipment, property or the environment)	High	High	Moderate	Low	Low
	<b>Negligible</b> (First aid or minor medical treatment; little or no property or environmental damage)	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low

on the table below:

What about Residual Risk on the right side of the sheet?

The residual risk section is a way to reassess the risk factor of the hazard after you've planned for it and taken all possible mitigation steps.

To take Weather Hazards as an example- on the left side of the sheet it's listed as a high risk, because it can be catastrophic (create imminent and immediate danger, like getting caught in lightning at high elevation or in cold rain without appropriate gear), but, after checking the forecast, bringing appropriate gear, paying attention to weather changes through the day, going over lightning safety with the crew, etc, you've reduced the probability of an incident from "Unlikely" to "Rare". You can't *fully* mitigate the risk, and the consequence of an incident can be extremely serious, but you've brought the risk down to manageable levels.

In other instances, like in Vehicle Travel, the RAC isn't reduced in the Residual Risk section. That's because, on the RAC matrix (above), when a critical risk moves from "Unlikely" to "Rare" the RAC remains "Moderate".

### **Is there any point in the Assessment that could trigger a walk away or project cancelation?**

While the hazard levels are pre filled out on your sheet, the intention of the RAW is for leaders to be more engaged with the changing dynamics of their work day. The goal is to be thinking of hazards in terms of the table shown above. So, for instance, if you begin the day with the standard weather assessment, but heat and smoke creep up throughout the day, while the severity may remain the same, your probability increases. If your probability increases to the point where you feel it's somewhere between "unlikely" and "possible" that a problem arises, and your risk goes from "moderate" to "high" or even "extremely high" that's an indicator to evacuate the project.

### **What about when my specific project doesn't match the risks laid out on the sheet? Can I change it?**

No, you can't actually change what's written on the sheet, much in the same way as you couldn't change what was written on the JHA. However, the sheet is the guidance for tolerable hazard levels for us as crew leads under our VSA. If you find your project exceeds these limits, the RAW is an invitation to rethink the necessity of that specific project and the way and time it's undertaken.