

# Workplace Risk Matrix

		Severity Of Consequences If Exposed				
		Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	High (4)	Very high (5)
Likelihood Of Exposure	Rare (1)	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Moderate (4)	Moderate (5)
	Unlikely (2)	Low (2)	Moderate (4)	Moderate (6)	Moderate (8)	High (10)
	Possible (3)	Low (3)	Moderate (6)	Moderate (9)	High (12)	High (15)
	Likely (4)	Moderate (4)	Moderate (8)	High (12)	Catastrophic (16)	Catastrophic (20)
	Almost certain (5)	Moderate (5)	High (10)	High (15)	Catastrophic (20)	Catastrophic (25)

Risk levels	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
		1-3	4-9	10-15

## Severity of Consequences:

- Very High Risk – (5) – The consequences for this type of exposure would be catastrophic causing a critical, irreparable injury. *Examples: death, brain death, dismemberment, loss of limb or eye, severe burns, disfigurement.*
- High Risk – (4) – The consequences for this type of exposure would be serious. The workers could possibly receive an injury that would be irreversible or affect their life for a significant period. *Examples: amputation, severe burns, hospitalization that affects normal life functioning for more than six months.*
- Moderate Risk – (3) – The consequences for this type of exposure are moderate. The exposure is not life threatening and the injuries are reversible in most circumstances. However, the injury would likely result in time off work to heal and could affect normal life functioning for up to six months. *Examples: severe strains/sprains, minor broken bone, joint dislocations, severe lacerations/abrasions, debris in eye, moderate burns.*

- Minor Risk – (2) – The consequences for this type of exposure are minimal. These exposures are not life threatening, but would require a visit to an emergency care center for treatment. The injury would likely allow for modified duty and not require time off work. The injury would not greatly affect normal life functioning. *Examples: minor strains/sprains, cuts requiring stitches, large abrasions, large contusions, minor injuries that require a prescription to treat.*
- Insignificant Risk – (1) – The consequences for this type of exposure are trivial. The exposure is not life threatening and would not require a visit to an emergency care center for treatment. The injury can be handled with basic first aid treatment and there is no loss work time. *Examples: small lacerations requiring a simple bandage, minor bruising, superficial burns.*

## **Likelihood of Exposure:**

The likelihood that a hazard may occur can be measured as a probability (such as a 90 per cent chance) or as a frequency (such as twice a year).

- Almost Certain – (5) – The likelihood of this exposure happening is extremely high, almost definite. This exposure has a greater than 80% chance of happening.
- Likely – (4) – The likelihood of this exposure happening is high; you could reasonably expect it to happen. This exposure has a 60% - 80% chance of happening.
- Possible – (3) – The likelihood of this exposure happening is conceivable; you would recognize that it could happen, but it would expect it. This exposure has a 40% - 60% chance of happening.
- Unlikely – (2) – The likelihood of this exposure happening is low; you would not expect it to happen. This exposure has a 20% - 40% chance of happening.
- Rare – (1) – The likelihood of this exposure happening is extremely low; you would be surprised if it happened. This exposure has a 0% - 20% chance of happening.

*The above evaluations and/or recommendations are for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for medical advice or legal compliance purposes. They are based solely on the information provided to us and relate only to those conditions specifically discussed. We do not make any warranty, expressed or implied, that your workplace is safe or healthful or that it complies with all laws, regulations or standards.*

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