

Risk Score Calculator

The risk matrix tool or calculator we use for risk assessments at work is different to the one used in the safety training we recently did. Does it mean the one we are using is incorrect?

A risk matrix or calculator provides you the ability to determine what the risk could ultimately be. There are several different risk matrix tools and calculators available to assist in the risk assessment process. With different training organisations and government agencies providing examples for those who may not already have one implemented.

Completing a risk assessment allows you to determine how dangerous or immediate the risk is, and will help you prioritise hazards based on their risk before implementing controls, enabling you to work on the highest risk first.

As long as the risk assessment tools you use takes into account the likelihood, the possible severity or any illness or injury that may result from the hazard and you use the same tool consistently, you can be comfortable that it is appropriate. Some risk tools also include the exposure to the hazard.

Below are some examples of the different types of tools available.

Risk Matrix

The risk matrix works by using the matrix with your scenario or hazard looking at how severely it could hurt someone and then how likely is it to occur.

The below example is from NSW WorkCover, consisting of a 4 by 4 matrix with a 1 to 6 priority.

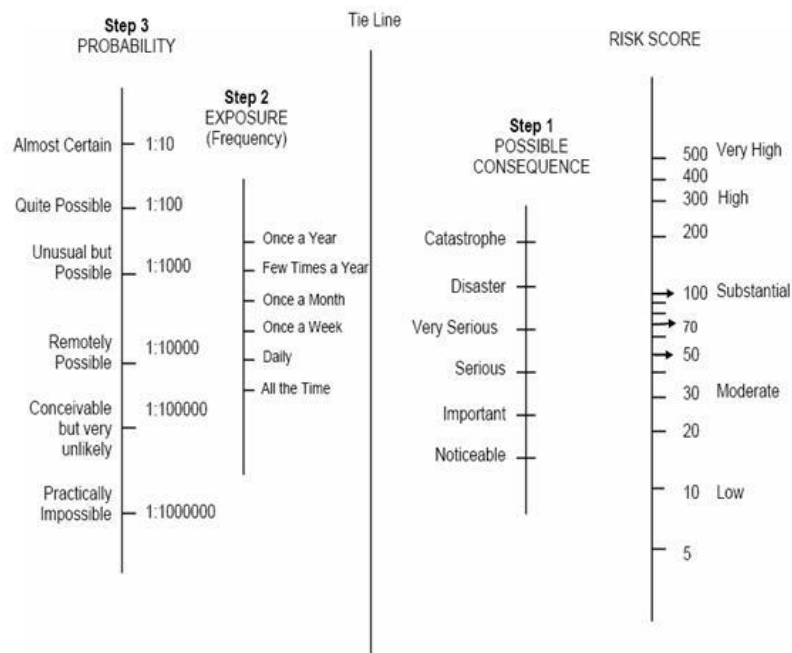
How severely could it hurt someone? or How ill could it make someone?	How likely is it to be that bad?			
	Very likely could happen anytime	Likely could happen sometime	Unlikely could happen but very rarely	Very unlikely could happen but probably never will
Kill or cause permanent disability or ill health	1	1	2	3
Long term illness or serious injury	1	2	3	4
Medical attention and several days off work	2	3	4	5
First aid needed	3	4	5	6
The numbers show you how important it is to do something: 1: top priority: do something immediately 6: low priority: do something when possible				

The next example is what is used in Australian Government, you will notice that this one is a 5 by 5 with indicators of L (low), M (medium), H (high) and E (extreme).

Likelihood	Consequences				
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Almost certain	M	H	H	E	E
Likely	M	M	H	H	E
Possible	L	M	M	H	E
Unlikely	L	M	M	M	H
Rare	L	L	M	M	H

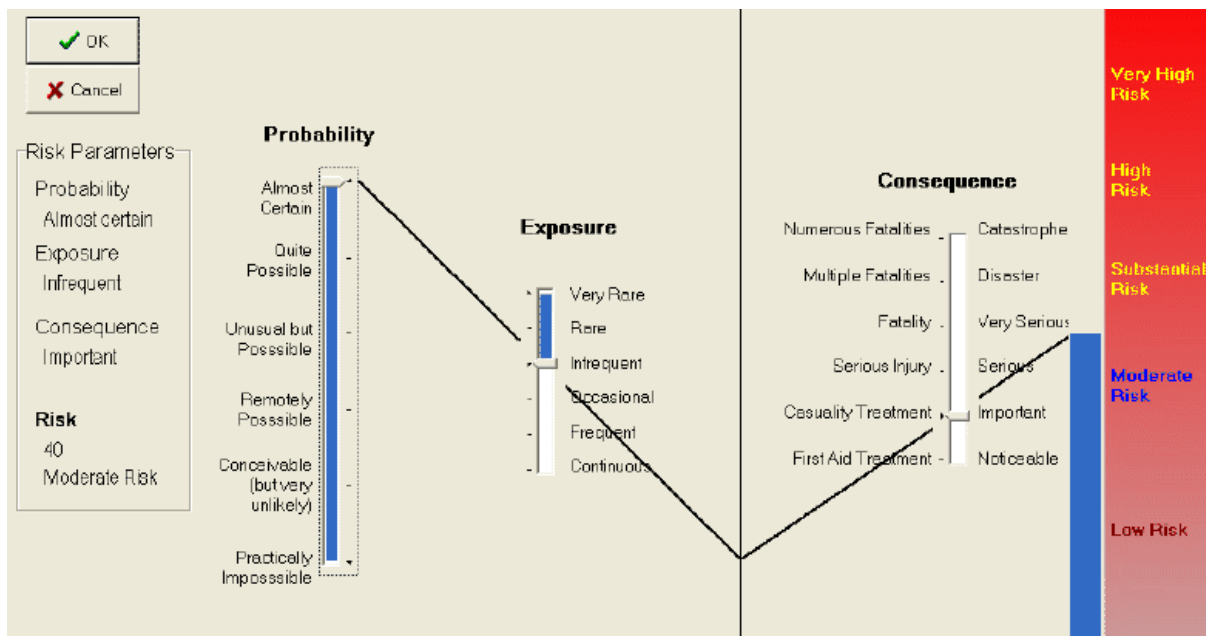
Risk Score Nomogram - also known as the Risk Score Tie Line

The tie lines work slightly different and to explain how to apply it could create confusion, however the NSCA have a great online demonstration on how to use these that is very clear at http://www.idpmultimedia.com.au/idpcontent/support/pop_nsca.htm



Electronic Risk Score Calculator

These are essentially an electronic Tie line and works the same way as the previous example however it's electronic and you can move the bars up and down and it will then calculate the risk associated with the hazard. This version can be downloaded from <http://www.safetyrisk.com.au/2010/03/14/electronic-risk-score-calculator-nomogram/>



For further information or assistance on carrying out risk assessments in your workplace contact Dowell Solutions today by [clicking here](#).