

Module 1 Tutorial Risk triangle

Revision	Date	Ву	Revisions
1.0	8 Dec 2019	C Stokes	First release

Introduction:

The risk triangle (below) is a model of risk that considers the contributions by different elements of risk that lead to harm. In the model shown below, these elements are nominally described as the exposure to a situation where failure could occur, the likelihood that once exposed failure will occur, and the consequence of failure (the level of harm) once it has occurred. The benefit of such a model is that it allows us to visualise the different ways in which harm can be reduced or even eliminated. Importantly, it also allows us to see that redundancy, in the form of approaching harm from multiple elements, allows for even greater benefits with regard to reducing harm.



Exposure

Instructions:

Students should review Module1, Snippet 2, *How harm occurs* of Safe System for Universities before undertaking this activity.

Form into small groups and using a large sheet of paper, draw up the Risk triangle and label each side as the elements of exposure, likelihood and consequence. Leave enough space so that lists can be made next each of the three risk elements.

Review one of the following accident descriptions, or a detailed description of any other accident or incident:

• Piper Alpha drilling platform explosion

- Tenerife airport disaster
- Princes Highway intersection crash

Consider the events that occurred before, during and after the accident. What events led to an increase in exposure, likelihood or consequence? What controls/treatments could have been used to reduce the risk of harm by reducing exposure, likelihood or consequence?