

Dynamic Risk Assessment*

A hazard is a thing or condition that might expose someone to risk of injury or occupational disease. Risk defines the chance of that injury or illness occurring.

A risk assessment is an overall process of identifying the hazard, assessing the risk, and controlling the hazards. There are two types of risk assessment processes: formal and informal.

Formal risk assessments require forms and are usually a team activity. A worker can conduct an informal risk assessment without documentation.

The Dynamic Risk Assessment is one way to conduct an informal risk assessment.

Why is it important?

You can use the Dynamic Risk Assessment method to prompt you to:

- evaluate the hazards in the workplace daily
- assess the risk posed by these hazards
- review the existing hazards control.

Doing this risk assessment encourages you to think safety. By identifying a hazard and using the hierarchy of control, you will either eliminate the hazard (remove the risk) or control the hazard (reduce the risk).

Key characteristics of a dynamic risk assessment

A dynamic risk assessment is a field practice to observe hazards, assess their risk, and review the environment where you are working. This type of risk assessment allows you to quickly identify threats and make informed decisions about them to keep yourself and your coworkers safe on the job.

Preventive next steps

The first step in the dynamic risk assessment is to **stop and think**. Ask yourself these three questions:

- Do I understand my task?
- Are there changes to the task or environment?
- Have I identified any potential hazards?

The second step in the dynamic risk assessment is to **assess risk**. Ask yourself these three questions:

- What could the consequences be?
- How serious or probable are they?
- Does this hazard put anyone else at risk?

You are asking about the likelihood, and the outcome of the risk should an accident occur. Would you rate it as a low, medium, or high-risk activity?

The third step in the dynamic risk assessment is to **control hazards**. Ask yourself to consider these three items:

- Evaluate existing hazard controls.
- Do I know all safe work procedures for this task?
- If not, put the safe work procedures in place before proceeding to work.

A safe work procedure is step-by-step instructions on how to do the task.

By doing these three steps and confirming that the job is safe, you can now perform the task safely with reduced risk.



For additional resources visit:

[CCOHS website](#) – Risk Assessment

OHSR Part 1 [Definitions](#)

MSABC Hazard Identification and Control [course](#)

MSABC Hazard Identification [Toolbox](#)

