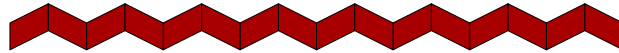


# Risk Assessments



**Risk assessments** are a systematic, practical way of performing the risk management process for specific events, activities, etc. For instance: an event is planned that will include water-related activities. A risk manager knows that going into or onto water can be dangerous under certain conditions, so any good risk manager will ask questions about, and perform research on, this particular event to assess the level of risks and to develop a plan to deal with those risks.

The risk manager may decide that the planned activities (or some of them) are too dangerous and should be eliminated. Or, the activities are only moderately dangerous, but certain precautions must be implemented prior to the activities taking place (e.g., the purchase of an insurance policy, verification that a lifeguard will be on hand, Coast Guard certification of a boat, publication of safety rules).

Regardless of the decision, a risk assessment will have taken place that is designed to promote and protect the safety of the individuals involved, as well as the financial assets of the sponsoring organization. Though it is true that the information gained in that assessment will help with future assessments, since situations change constantly, any plan developed for a past situation may well need modification in the future.