



The First Ten Plays

HOW TO PERFORM A BASIC RISK ASSESSMENT*

- **Get executive approval first and then build a team to assist in the process. Establish the style, components and depth of the assessments—this includes the risk boundaries. Establish standards and a review group.**
- **Establish a hazard history and base that makes sense within the boundary. Keep the focus within the scope of the organization’s authority.**
- **Establish the frequency and intensity of the hazard events to define what hazards are really critical, or “threats.”**
- **Establish the assets in your boundary that are susceptible to damage by the likely threats and those threats with most serious impacts.**
- **Define the vulnerabilities, which are the potential losses once a defined threat impacts a susceptible asset. Not all threats affect all assets.**
- **After looking at the potential losses, define what outcomes you will accept in terms of losses.**
- **Look at the controls that exist to reduce or prevent losses during the impact of vulnerable assets with the threats.**
- **If the controls don’t meet the intended limitations of loss, then there is a gap.**
- **Define what measures could be taken, beyond what exists now, to reduce the gap, including specific actions, resources, timelines and costs—including what the implications are if controls aren’t improved**
- **Develop a risk communication strategy to explain the findings to key officials, stakeholder organizations, the public and the media.**

** These are not listed in order of importance but as a group of materials that will increase the possibility of positive outcomes.*