

Risk Assessment Matrix

Date:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions, Training, Notes	Resources	Priority

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Purpose: This form is to be used by individuals, families, and organizations to capture and assess risks prior to developing an emergency preparedness plan.

Instructions: Make additional copies of the blank matrix before beginning. See the following page for an example matrix.

1. Risk: List all risks that you are exposed to or may be concerned about. Identify specific risks or emergencies based on your unique situation (wildfires, hurricanes, medical conditions, etc.). Don't judge, just brainstorm and write down as many things as possible
2. Likelihood (1-3): A higher number indicates a higher risk (1=Unlikely, 2=Possible, 3=Very Likely). Consider your current situation and lifestyle. Note that lifestyle changes can often significantly reduce the likelihood of a risk happening.
3. Impact (1-3): A higher number indicates a higher impact (1=Low, 2=Medium, 3=High). Consider physical, financial, and mental impact.
4. Initial Review
  1. Scratch out risks that are graded 1-1 (Unlikely and Low Impact). Other events may have a medium or high impact, but such a low likelihood that you choose not to address them at this time.
  2. Look for ways to combine risks ("mugging" and "rape" might be combined under "violent crime")
  3. Rewrite your matrix based on the above steps.
5. Actions, Training, Notes: List actions you can take to mitigate the risk (trimming shrubs to reduce hiding places around your home), training available (self defense courses), other people with needed expertise, etc.
  1. Don't worry about cost at this stage
  2. Highlight actions that repeat across risks (taking a self defense class). These should get a high priority.
6. Resources: List resources that may be available to address this risk. This may be a line item in your budget (ie. \$25 per month), hours to work on it per week, etc. It may be helpful to complete this block after you have determined the priority order of your risks.
  1. Think of this as an investment, just like money you save in the bank. Pay yourself first!
  2. Decide how much you will budget to self reliance actions and supplies each month.
7. Priority (1-3): A higher number indicates a higher priority. Consider all of the previous factors when assigning a priority. Free or easily mitigated risks (learning how to change a flat tire) should be completed first.
  1. Rewrite your matrix with all risks in priority order.
8. Action Plan: It may be helpful to write a separate Action Plan. In priority order, list individual actions to take and the resources you will dedicate to them.

Preparedness Planning: Your Risk Assessment Matrix is the foundation of your preparedness plan. Take the time to complete the matrix completely and commit to taking one action everyday to improve your readiness. All plans are living documents, so be sure to review this matrix and your plan regularly and make adjustments as your life changes.

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Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions, Training, Notes	Resources	Priority
Home Invasion	2	3	Shotgun class, clear yard	\$1000 now	3
Johnny Wrecks Car	3	2	Driving class, make car kits	Car kits, insurance	2
Grandpa's Health	3	3	911 training for kids, 1st aid class	Joan is nurse	3
Crime near work	2	3	Get pepper spray, pistol class	CCW, Pepper spray	3
Evacuation	1	3	Build evac kits	FEMA website	1
Mall Parking Lot	2	3	Kid go a lot, self defense class		3
Wild Fire	1	3	Drought, community plan, cut scrub		1
Self Defense Shooting	1	3	Need lawyer, pistol class	CCW	2
Alien Invasion	4	3			