Perils & Prospects: Deconstructing the Risk Assessment Silo

Sarah Thompson
Risk Management Officer
Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM)
My Contact Info

Sarah Thompson
Risk Management Officer
Program Development Unit

Sarah.e.Thompson@Ontario.ca
Work: 647-329-1207
Cell: 437-776-7482
What is Risk Assessment?

Risk Assessment is a process where you:

1. Identify hazards that have the potential to cause harm.

2. Analyze and evaluate the risk.
Risk Assessment Silo

**Silo mentality:**

- Inward looking
- Does not share information or resources
An Unintended Silo

‘Siloed’ risk assessment is not intentional. I observe three main causes:

- Negative Perceptions of Risk
- Dread of Assessment Process
- Misunderstanding the Role of Assessment
Misconception 1: Negative Perceptions of Risk

Risk assessment is about determining if something is either safe or risky, positive or negative.
Perception of risk

Risk: A situation involving exposure to danger. Peoples’ interaction with such situations.

Perils  Prospects
Perils
Prospects
Misconception 2: Dread of the Assessment process

Risk assessment is all about ‘the numbers’ – it’s confusing.
RISK = Frequency X Consequence...

HOW!?
Partners Can Help!

- Critical Infrastructure and Asset operators
- Technical Experts
- Other Subject Matter Experts
- Other data
Data is not just numbers!

Quantitative data
Deals with numbers and things you can measure objectively. This includes items such as the cost or the number of people affected by an emergency.
Data is not just numbers!

Qualitative Data

Concerned with understanding human behaviour from the informant’s perspective. This includes stories and experiences of past events.
Example: United States, National Seismic Hazard Map Workshop

Earth scientists, designers, sociologists, psychologists, marketers, journalists, and decision scientists.
Misconception 3: Misunderstanding the Role of Assessment

Risk Registers!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>HIGH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
## Scoring & Ranking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Ranking</th>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Likelihood Category</th>
<th>Consequence</th>
<th>Consequence Category</th>
<th>RISK TOTAL (Likelihood x Consequence)</th>
<th>Level of Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Farm Animal Disease</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Earthquake</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Drought or Low Water</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘Whole-of-Society’ Approach

- Community Members
- Critical Infrastructure and Asset operators
- Technical Experts
- Other Subject Matter Experts
- Emergency Professionals
- Local Government
HIRA Guidance

- Identify Hazards
- Assess Risk
- Build Community Knowledge
- Report & Follow-up
- Plan
Deliverables

**HIRA Report:** Definitions and descriptions of all hazards. Includes provincial threat statement.

**Methodology Guidebook:** An overview of a recommended method for completing HIRA, including tools and resources.
Process to date

Dec 2017 – Present
✓ Academic & Expert Consultation

Dec 2017 – June 2018
✓ Ministry Consultation and expert review

2014 – 2017
✓ Profile review
✓ Ministry consultation
✓ Academic & Expert Consultation

Feb – June 2018
✓ Municipal Consultation
✓ Open Invitation for Feedback
Anticipated Next Steps

1. Field Officer Preparation
   Target: November - December 2018.

2. Training materials will be updated
   Target: July 2019.

   Target: December 2018 to March 2019.

Webinars, teleconferences.
My Contact Info

Sarah Thompson
Risk Management Officer
Program Development Unit

Sarah.e.Thompson@Ontario.ca
Work: 647-329-1207
Cell: 437-776-7482