



# **Safety Focus Areas**

**July 2025**

C/Maj Alex Smith, NCR C/SE



# What we'll be covering

## Risk Factors

- What is a risk factor?
- Controllable risk factors
- Uncontrollable risk factors

## Risk Prevention

- Risk assessment
- Proper planning
- Available resources



# Risk Factors

## What is a risk factor?

- A risk factor is any condition, hazard, or circumstance that increases the likelihood of accident, injury, sickness, mishap, or loss.
- These factors may be apparent and easy to notice, but they could also fly completely under the radar if you're not careful.
- When considering the risk factors in any environment, it's essential to think critically and take an in-depth look through the lens of safety.
- In this briefing, we will focus on the two primary types of risk factors, those being controllable and uncontrollable.
- We'll also be covering how we can identify and prevent, or at least significantly reduce, these risk factors within Civil Air Patrol.



# Risk Factors

## Controllable Risk Factors

- A controllable risk factor is a hazard or condition that poses a real risk to equipment, facilities, and personnel. These risks occur when corners are cut and proper safety measures aren't utilized.
- Some easily-controllable risks include the need for PPE equipment, horseplay or negligence, hazardous material or machinery handling, fatigue and dehydration, and the need for job-specific training.
- They are controllable risk factors because they can be effectively managed or even completely eliminated by taking proper care of assets and personnel and complying with rules and regulations.
- One of the greatest ways to encourage this is to lead by example. Demonstrating safety checks and addressing risk factors will inspire others to do the same. Education and training on best practices is also integral to a pro-safety environment.



# Risk Factors

## Uncontrollable risk factors

- An uncontrollable risk factor is one that cannot be predicted or prevented with 100% accuracy, that includes weather and natural disasters, terrain and local wildlife, sickness and preexisting medical conditions, and much more.
- Uncontrollable risk factors are unpredictable and could become a factor at any time, in any place. That doesn't stop us from being able to identify and prepare for them, though.
- Uncontrollable risk factors cannot be prevented, but the threat they pose can be mitigated or reduced by having the safety measures in place if or when they do occur.
- When doing risk assessment, it's important to not only identify common risks and hazards, but to think outside the box. It may sound silly to imagine what would happen in the case of a hurricane or earthquake, but it's not out of the question. When it comes to safety, leave no stone unturned.



# Risk Prevention

## Risk assessment

- Operational Risk Assessment (ORM) is Civil Air Patrol's greatest defense against both controllable and uncontrollable risk factors.
- The ORM sheet is used before an activity to identify both potential risks and preventative solutions. This helps us to put the proper safeguards in place to make the activity a success.
- ORM is used for Encampments, meetings, missions, excercises, and more, but its use doesn't just end there. It also trains members to be more mindful of safety and risk factors in the environment around them.
- The five most basic steps when assessing safety in any situation are Identifying Hazards, Assessing Risk, Developing Controls, Implementing Controls, and Evaluating Effectiveness.
- It's important not to just implement safety measures and walk away—safety is a constant process, and checking back in is an important step in that process.



# Risk Prevention

## Proper Planning

- As much as it's important to control risk factors before they become an issue, sometimes we don't have that luxury. In this case, even our backup plan needs to have a backup plan.
- Backup and contingency plans are the measures in place to ensure that, if an issue arises, it is dealt with as swiftly and effectively as possible.
- When doing risk assessment, take a look at what can be done to prevent hazards, but also what should be done if a hazard were to become a reality.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a multitude of courses and tools, many of which are required for CAP's Operations Qualifications, that can educate and train members to be more efficient in taking proper precautions and planning ahead.



# Risk Prevention

## Available resources

- CAPF 160 - Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet  
[https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPF160\\_April\\_2022\\_84F2B9D8B8C8A.pdf](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPF160_April_2022_84F2B9D8B8C8A.pdf)
- CAPF 160S - Real Time Risk Assessment Worksheet  
[https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPF\\_160S\\_Real\\_Time\\_Risk\\_Assessment\\_314090CCC3CCE.pdf](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPF_160S_Real_Time_Risk_Assessment_314090CCC3CCE.pdf)
- Civil Air Patrol - Basic Risk Management  
[https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/001\\_Basic\\_Risk\\_Management\\_SMS\\_201\\_EE1F195D6779F.pdf](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/001_Basic_Risk_Management_SMS_201_EE1F195D6779F.pdf)
- Civil Air Patrol - Activity Safety Risk Management  
[https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPP\\_1603\\_CAP\\_Activity\\_Safety\\_Pamphlet\\_2023\\_fdad40e6c4d04\\_548746902282d.pdf](https://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/media/cms/CAPP_1603_CAP_Activity_Safety_Pamphlet_2023_fdad40e6c4d04_548746902282d.pdf)
- FEMA – ISP Course Catalog  
<https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx?lang=en>



# Thank you!

- If you have any questions, please reach out to myself at [asmith@ncr.cap.gov](mailto:asmith@ncr.cap.gov) or Maj. Fink at [bfink@ncr.cap.gov](mailto:bfink@ncr.cap.gov).