

Safety

NEWSLETTER

Every organization wants employees to go home safe at the end of the day. Yet many workplace injuries, near misses, and losses occur not because hazards were completely unknown, but because they were never formally identified, evaluated, and prioritized in a consistent way.

A Risk Register provides organizations with a practical way to better understand where risk truly exists within their operations and how to focus resources where they can make the greatest impact. By engaging employees, documenting real-world work activities, and identifying opportunities for improvement before incidents occur, organizations can reduce losses, and build a safer workplace for everyone.

This month's newsletter explores what a Risk Register is, why it matters, and how it can become one of the most valuable tools in advancing your organization's safety efforts. At the end of the newsletter, you will also find information regarding the **MCWCF Safety Grant Program**, along with the safety consulting and training services that are available to members at no cost through MCWCF.

RISK REGISTER						
ID No.	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Severity	Owner	Mitigation Action
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

Why Organizations Benefit from a Risk Register

Many organizations already have safety programs, policies, inspections, and training in place. However, one of the biggest challenges is determining where to focus improvement efforts first. A Risk Register helps answer that question.

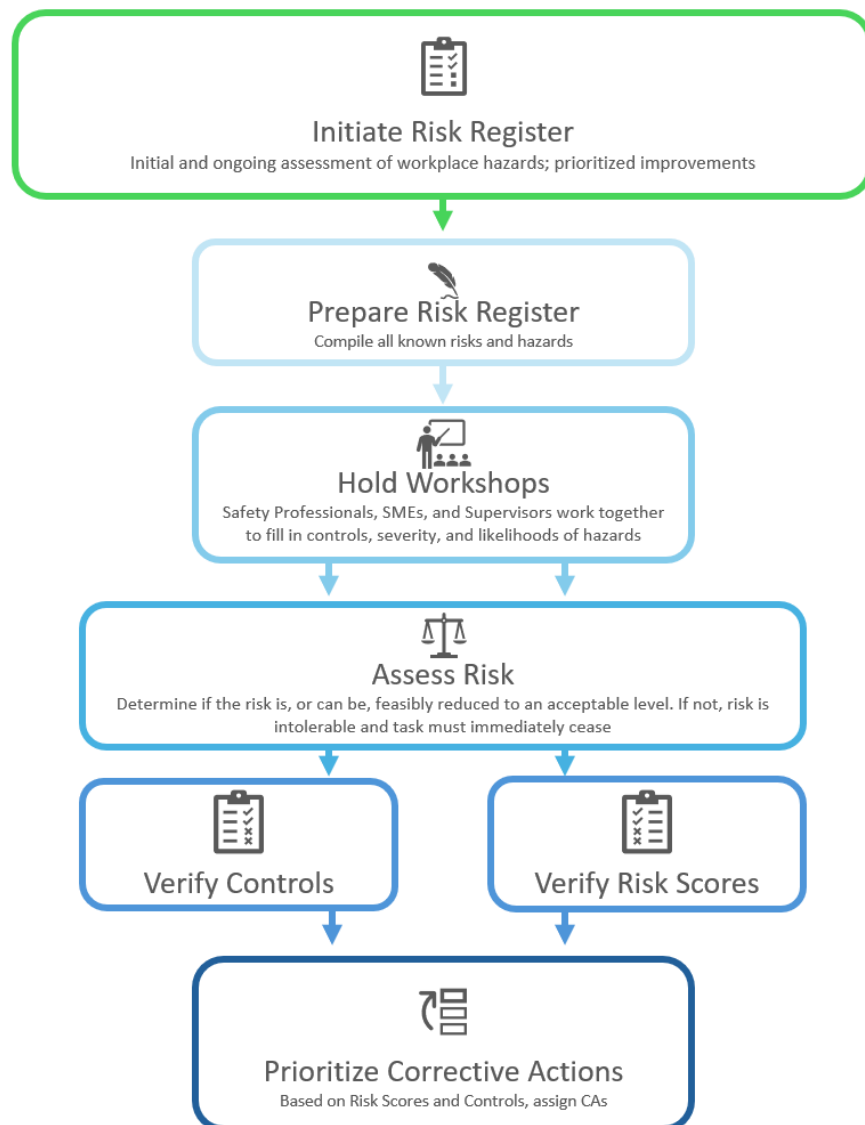
What is a Risk Register and Why Does it Matter?

One of the most valuable aspects of the Risk Register process is that it focuses on how work is actually performed in the field, not simply how procedures say work should be performed.

The process typically begins with facilitated work team sessions involving supervisors, frontline employees, and safety personnel. During these discussions, employees describe:

- Routine and non-routine work activities
- Equipment and tools used
- Operational challenges
- Existing hazards and exposures
- Current controls already in place

These conversations are extremely important because frontline employees often provide insights that are difficult to identify during inspections alone. Their participation helps ensure the Risk Register reflects real-world operations and practical concerns.



Evaluating and Prioritizing Risk

Once hazards are identified, the next step is evaluating the level of risk associated with each activity.

This evaluation considers:

- The potential severity of an injury or incident
- The likelihood of occurrence
- Frequency and duration of exposure
- Existing safeguards or controls

Turning Findings into Action

A Risk Register should never become a document that sits on a shelf. The true value comes from what organizations do with the information once risks are identified.

Corrective actions are developed collaboratively and are tailored to the organization's operational realities. Depending on the identified hazards, solutions may include:

- Improving or developing safety procedures
- Creating or updating Job Safety Analyses (JSAs)
- Enhancing employee training
- Implementing preventive maintenance programs
- Purchasing safer equipment or tools
- Improving communication and accountability systems

By directly connecting corrective actions to identified hazards, organizations can ensure that safety improvements are meaningful, targeted, and sustainable.





The MCWCF Safety Grant

One of the challenges many organizations face is not identifying hazards, but finding the financial resources necessary to address them. As risks are identified through the Risk Register process, some corrective actions may require additional funding for items such as equipment improvements, engineering controls, or other safety-related initiatives. Fortunately, the MCWCF Safety Grant Program may be available to help offset some of those costs. The grant program can serve as a valuable resource for members looking to make meaningful safety improvements while managing budget limitations. Organizations are encouraged to explore the program as part of their overall risk reduction strategy.

Interested and would like no-cost assistance

Improving workplace safety is a journey, and every organization is at a different point along that path. Developing a Risk Register is one of the most effective ways to better understand operational risks, prioritize safety efforts, and build a stronger safety program.

If your organization is interested in learning more, the safety team is available to assist you in understanding the process and helping you get started. Through the Michigan Counties Workers Compensation Fund (MCWCF), safety consulting and training services are available to members at no cost. Whether your organization is just beginning the conversation or looking to further strengthen an existing program, we would be glad to work alongside your team and support your safety efforts in a practical and collaborative manner.

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