



Board Risk

Video 1: Board Risk

Welcome to Nonprofit Safety Hero, an initiative of the Washington Food Coalition. Our goal is to make sure you have the information and tools you need to keep your people safe and healthy. This short video explains a simple way to plan for risk. It will help your board and leaders avoid unnecessary safety risk, and plan your response to adverse events. That means you will be ready for whatever might happen later.

We specifically want to explain the Risk Bow Tie, a valuable tool to help you think about risk in your organization. First, we want to acknowledge that even talking about risk can make people anxious. Risk feels scary. It can lead to injury or financial loss. By talking about it in the open, you can stay ahead of those injuries or financial losses.

First, let me explain the bow tie. You can see why it's called that. The first step is to describe your risk event. Next, you write down what would cause that event to happen. You then write down the consequences of it happening. Risk event causes consequences.

The next part involves actions you can take before the risk event happens-like right now. These actions help you avoid the event and prepare to respond to it. We call these actions controls. There are two kinds of controls. Preventative controls help prevent the event from happening. In other words, avoid it. Corrective controls prepare for the result of the event. In other words, how would you respond if the event happens? Let me give you an example.

Our risk event is a person falls which could be caused by a wet, slippery floor, an uneven floor, or an item on the floor that someone trips over. The consequences of it happening might be that the person needs simple first aid. Maybe they need a hospital visit because they hit their head when they fell. Right now, we can take action to reduce the risk of this event. We can use preventative controls such as these:

- A system for floor cleaning that ensures people won't be walking on the wet floor.
- A handrail or sign to mark a step
- Procedures to keep the floor clear of boxes.

We can also put corrective controls in place:

- A first aid kit and training
- Directions to the nearest hospital.
- A reporting system so the right people know what happened.

How do you generate a list of risk events? Consider these two ways.

1. Do a walk-through of your space. Washington State Labor and Industries has experts who provide a safety and health consultation at no cost.

2. Ask your staff or volunteers what events they observe that could be risky.

As you generate ideas for your organization using the risk bow tie, be sure to incorporate them into your accident prevention program. You can download an app checklist at www.planning.nonprofitsafetyhero.com

Thank you for learning about risk and for being a nonprofit safety hero.