

Decision Making



How Do We Evaluate Risk and Decide What To Do?

Trainings

WFR, SPI, ACA, etc.

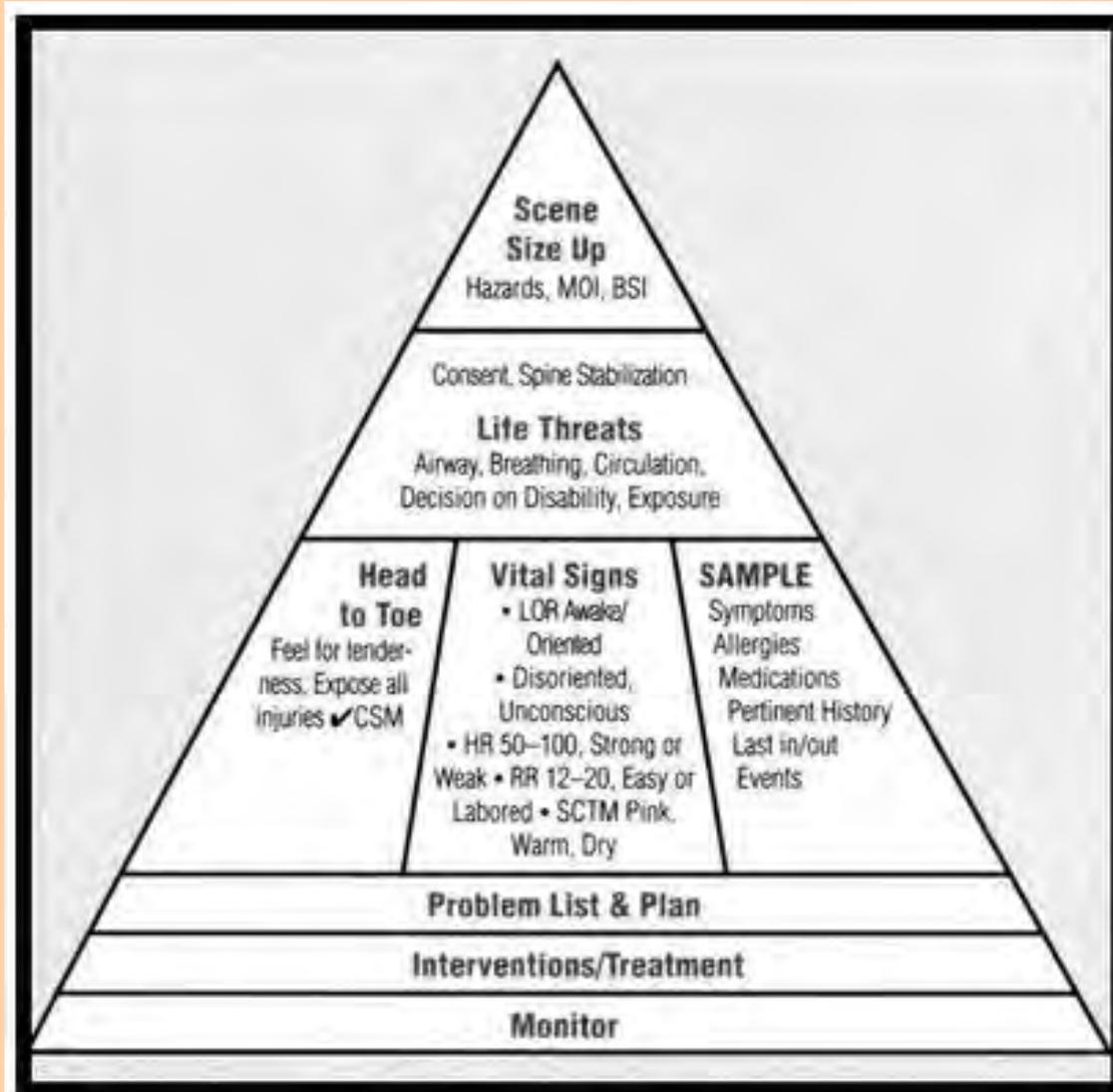
Protocols, Policies

Researched, Developed Over Time, etc

Identify Resources

SAR, Land Managers, Weather Info, etc

Patient Assessment System



PAS = Data Gathering

Subjective Data: “who, what, where”

Objective Data: Head to Toe Exam, Vital Signs, Patient History(SAMPLE)

Assessment:(Problem List)

Plan: (Treatment)



NOLS Field Data

Injuries:

Athletic = 55.2%

Soft Tissue = 17%

Activity:

Hiking w/Pack = 43.8%

At Camp = 12.2%

Heuristics

“Rules of Thumb”

Domain vs. Generalized Heuristics

Domain = Learned Rules/ Can be taught

-Some proven over time: “measure once, cut twice”

Others supported by statistics

Pneumonic: SRENE

Generalized = Learned From Our Own Experiences

Based on recognizing patterns (Ex. Worked before in a similar situation therefore will work again)

Expertise

Leader recognizes specific patterns, finds clues within those patterns and quickly comes to a decision

Breadth of Experience comes into play

Ex. Experienced WFRs/WEMTs can look at a patient, see subtle clues, gather info, and have a good idea of what is wrong with them

This can be expeditious but also can leave you vulnerable to errors



Analytical Decision Making

A systematic approach of gathering information, weighing alternatives, & deciding what is best

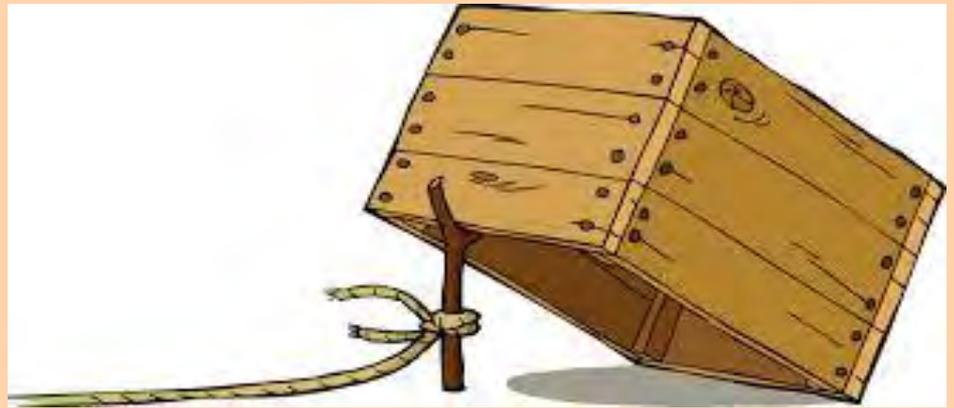
1. Describe the decision that needs to be made or the problem that needs to be solved
2. Identify parameters for the decision (Safety, Environment etc.)
3. Gather information (Environmental, Human, Time, Resources)
4. Identify options or choices
5. Compare options. What are the consequences?
6. Decide, implement, & evaluate

Random Choice

If lacking Experience, Information, or Expertise to decide *and* Consequences are not serious, taking a guess may be better than wasting time



Traps!



Heuristics:

Familiarity Trap: Familiar situations are “safe” or “controllable”

Acceptance: Making decisions “others” will like

Consistency: being consistent with earlier decisions

Social Proof: Because others have done it, it must be acceptable

Traps!

Expertise:

Overconfident Expert: Using expertise where it doesn't fit.
(Ex. Whitewater paddler in Lake Superior)

Expert Halo: Expectation that someone knowledgeable in one area is able to make decisions in new/different areas



Judgment

Good Judgment is not choosing the perfect answer. It's choosing a correct answer within the limits of your experience, knowledge, & abilities.

The ability to make good judgments is a cornerstone of outdoor adventure program risk management.



Risk Management Planning

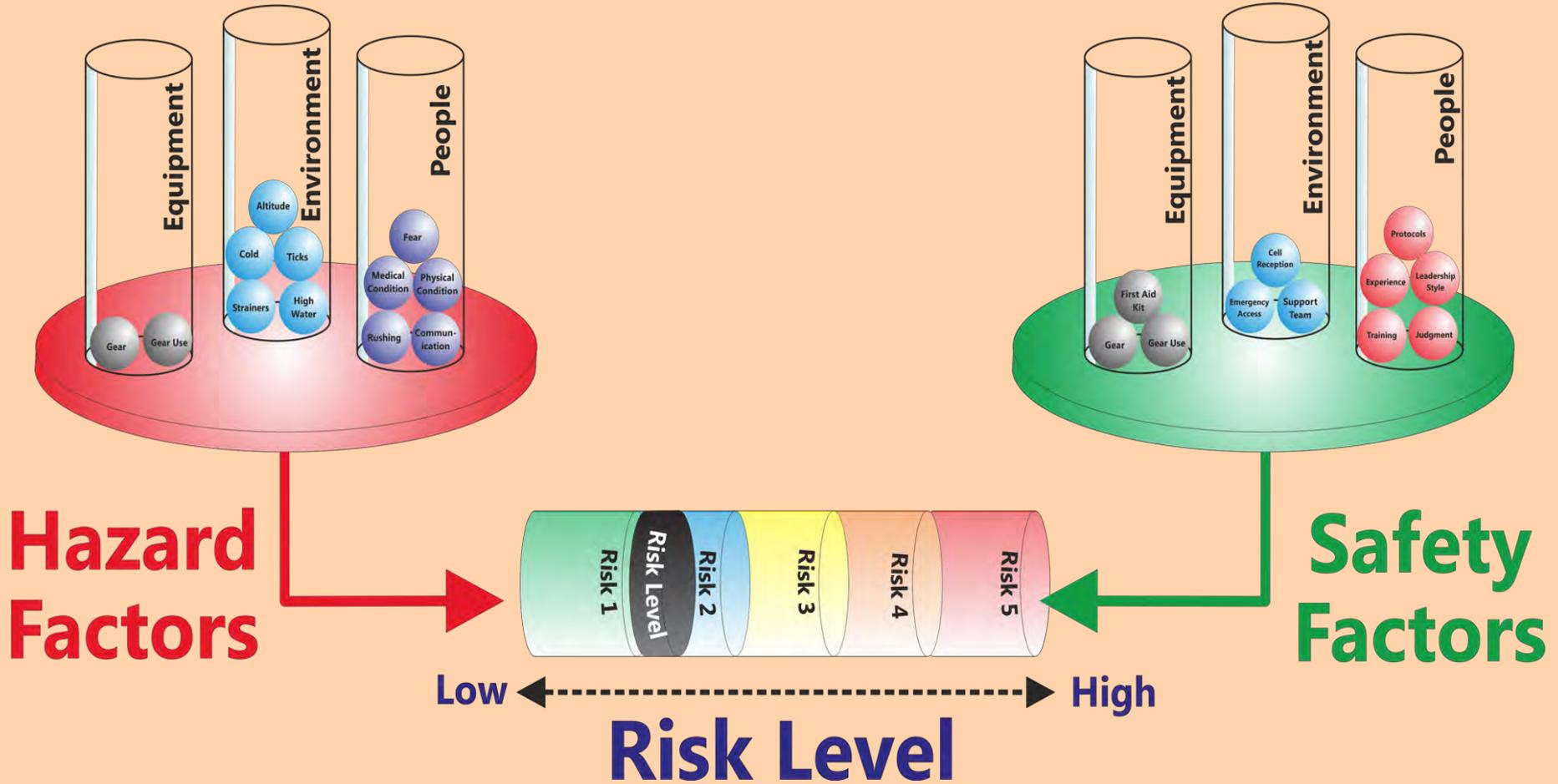
Hazards/Factors:

Environment: Temp, Terrain, Weather, etc

Equipment: Condition, Repair, Quantity, etc

People: Experience, Training, Protocols, etc.

Choosing a model



Risk Matrix

		Severity			
		NEGLIGIBLE 1 small/unimportant; not likely to have a major effect on the operation of the event / no bodily injury to requiring minor first aid injury	MARGINAL 2 minimal importance; has an effect on the operation of event but will not affect the event outcome / requires medical treatment	CRITICAL 3 serious/important; will affect the operation of the event in a negative way / suffers serious injuries or medical treatment of minors	CATASTROPHIC 4 maximum importance; could result in disaster/death; WILL affect the operation of the event in a negative way / death, dismemberment or serious injury to minors
Probability	LOW 1 This risk has rarely been a problem and never occurred at a college event of this nature	LOW!(1:1)!	MEDIUM!(2:1)!	MEDIUM!(3:1)!	HIGH!(4:1)!
	MEDIUM 2 This risk will MOST LIKELY occur at this event	LOW!(1:2)!	MEDIUM!(2:2)!	HIGH!(3:2)!	EXTREME!(4:2)!
	HIGH 3 This risk WILL occur at this event, possibly multiple times, and has occurred in the past	MEDIUM!(1:3)!	HIGH!(2:3)!	HIGH!(3:3)!	EXTREME!(4:3)!

Explanation of Risk Ranking		
LOW!	MEDIUM!	If the consequences to this event/activity are LOW / MEDIUM, your group should be OK to proceed with this event/activity. It is advised that if the activity is MEDIUM, risk mitigation efforts should be made.
HIGH!		If the consequences to this event/activity are HIGH, it is advised that you seek additional event planning support.
EXTREME!		If the consequences to this event/activity are EXTREME, it is advised that you do not hold this event without prior consultation with Risk Management

Conclusion

Risk Management is Dynamic

Comprehensive Data Gathering is Essential

Choose a Model(s) that work for your plan

Development of Policies & Protocols w/ Continuing Development

With proper Training, Protocols, Policies potential Threats/Hazards can be opportunities instead of threats to the program or participant safety!