



# ADVENTURE A RISK WORTH TAKING

Level 4, Semester 2

Denise Leonard



## **WILL GADD ON RISK MANAGEMENT**

- In January 2015, Gadd became the first person to scale the ice-covered rock wall next to the Horseshoe Falls at Niagara Falls, followed by Sarah Heuniken.



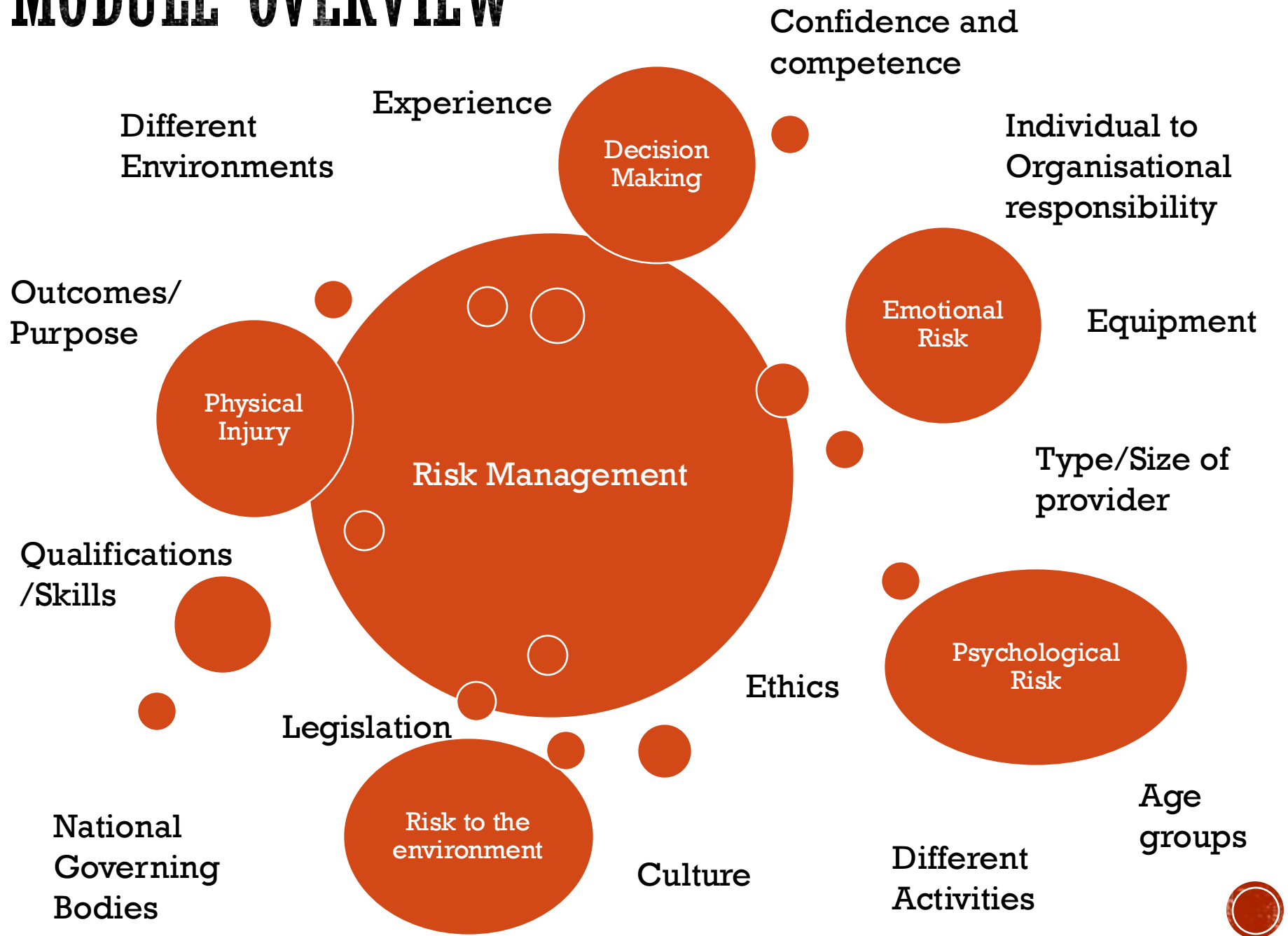


# MANAGING RISK

“The aim is to keep people alive  
**not** to stop them from living”

Jonathan Rees, Deputy Chief  
Executive of the Health and  
Safety Executive (March 2007)

# MODULE OVERVIEW





**Assessment 1: Academic Interview (20 Mins) Due  
3rd March 2025**



**Assessment 2: Essay (1500 words); Due 25th April  
2025**

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# **MODULE ASSESSMENTS**



# HAZARD AND RISK



**Hazards** are anything that may cause harm.

**Risk** is the likelihood, high or low, that somebody could be harmed by these and other hazards, together with an indication of how serious the harm could be.



# HAZARDS

## **Definition of a Hazard (sometimes called causal factor)**

*“anything with the potential to cause harm (loss or injury)” (Barton 2007, Pg12)* Notice the examples given in this text!

*“ An unsafe condition or activity that, if left uncontrolled, can contribute to an accident” (Attarian 2012, Pg 129)*

**Examples of Hazards:** Cold Water, Lightening Storm, Falling Object etc. Things/Actions/Inactions which can do us harm in some way



# WHAT IS AT RISK

- Physical wellbeing- injury and death
- Emotional wellbeing- Psychological health, self efficacy, self worth, motivation
- Cognitive wellbeing- understanding, decision making, competence
- Reputation- professional status, access to resources/ venues
- Resources- equipment, footage, finance
- Environment- ecosystem damage

Is the Risk Real or Perceived?

# TYPES OF RISK

- **Absolute Risk**

- *“The uppermost limit of the risk inherent in a situation”*

- The kayaker capsizes and drowns

- **Real Risk**

- *“The amount of risk that actually exists at any given moment in time (‘absolute risk’ adjusted by control measures)”*

- Bumps and bruises from swimming the rapid

- **Perceived Risk**

- *“Any individuals subjective assessment of the real risk present at any time (may not be related to either the absolute or real risk)”*

- I am totally safe, the instructor is with me!

(Haddock 1993)

[Kate Silverton Video \(Real and Perceived Risk\)](#)

# QUANTITATIVE V QUALITATIVE RA

Risk Assessments for Coasteering programmes [C-RA-1]

| Hazard       | Risk                 | Severity | Likely hood | Control Measures                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Equipment    | Equipment failure    | H        | L           | Equipment is regularly maintained, serviced and where required tested to current specifications.                                                        |
|              | Unsuitability        | M        | L           | All equipment meets current specifications and/or accepted standards where applicable and is suitable for its intended use.                             |
|              | Damaged              | L        | L           | Practitioners carry appropriate repair kit or spares for the activity.                                                                                  |
|              | Wrongly fitted       | M        | L           | Practitioners check equipment at time of issue.                                                                                                         |
| Activity     | Slips & Trips        | H        | M           | Practitioner briefs the group as to hazards / Equip group with appropriate PPE (Helmets) and brief regarding holding of the paddle and its correct use. |
|              | Falls                | H        | L           | Practitioner will manage locations where a fall is possible in an appropriate manner (top rope / spotting)                                              |
|              | Drowning             | H        | L           | Wear appropriate PPE (buoyancy aid) and ensure weak or non-swimmers are closely supervised.                                                             |
|              | Banging Head         | M        | M           | Helmets must be worn                                                                                                                                    |
|              | Falling Rocks        | M        | M           | Helmets worn at all times / Practitioner manages group                                                                                                  |
|              | Large Swell          | M        | L           | Practitioner will avoid large impact zones                                                                                                              |
|              | Waterborne disease   | H        | L           | Avoid high-risk waterways. Avoid rivers immediately after flooding. Wash hands before lunch.                                                            |
|              | Wildlife             | M        | M           | Educate regarding jelly fish, seals, and dolphins                                                                                                       |
|              |                      |          |             |                                                                                                                                                         |
| Participants | Behaviour            | M        | M           | Participants are treated with respect                                                                                                                   |
| Bystanders   | Collision            | M        | M           | Instructor manages the group appropriately                                                                                                              |
|              | Stranger Danger      | M        | M           | Instructor manages the group appropriately                                                                                                              |
|              | Imitation            | H        | M           | Priorities of instructor, group, individual, public                                                                                                     |
| Access       | Access               | L        | L           | Practitioner will plan the route to avoid access issues - Both entrance and exit locations will be planned.                                             |
|              | Environment          | M        | L           | Group to be briefed regarding code of conduct in wild and rural places. Including dropping of litter                                                    |
|              | Livestock / Wildlife | M        | L           | Only where absolutely necessary will livestock be encountered Instructor will advise group of best approach.                                            |
|              | Roads /              | M        | L           | Practitioner to supervise any crossings and avoid where possible.                                                                                       |

Risk rating matrix

| LIKELIHOOD |               | SEVERITY/CONSEQUENCE |                            |                    |                                             |                 |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|            |               | Nil                  | Slight                     | Moderate           | High                                        | Very high       |
|            |               | Very minor injuries  | Requires 1st aid treatment | Significant injury | Serious injury, permanent disability, death | Multiple deaths |
|            | Remote        | Acceptable           | Acceptable                 | Acceptable         | Acceptable                                  | Acceptable      |
|            | Unlikely      | Acceptable           | Acceptable                 | Moderate           | Moderate                                    | High            |
|            | Possible      | Acceptable           | Moderate                   | High               | Unacceptable                                | Unacceptable    |
|            | Highly likely | Acceptable           | Moderate                   | High               | Unacceptable                                | Unacceptable    |

Here is a potential example from Earthworm Watch of a hazard and the control measures in place to mitigate the impact of the risk to teachers and students.

| HAZARD OBSERVED               | WHO MAY BE HARMED?    | POSSIBLE OUTCOME                   | RISK RATING BEFORE CONTROLS | CONTROL MEASURES                                     | RISK RATING AFTER CURRENT CONTROLS | FURTHER CONTROLS REQUIRED? | RISK RATING AFTER ADDITIONAL CONTROLS |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Soils from earthworm handling | Teachers and Students | Allergic reaction to soil bacteria | Low                         | Use of gloves, antiseptic hand gels and handwashing. | Low                                | N/A                        | N/A                                   |



# TASK FOR NEXT WEEK

## RISK PERCEPTION AND RISK TOLERANCE

Mark Piche and Andy Perkins



# **TASK FOR NEXT WEEK**

## **— QUESTIONS:**

### **Confidence Versus Competence**

### **Expectations and Risk**

### **The 'What If' game**

After watching the video write your ideas and thoughts down on each of these 3 subheadings in the context of 'Risk Perception and Risk Tolerance' before next week's lecture.

Add your thoughts to the discussion forum on Moodle.

# **READ CHAPTER 2: SAFETY, RISK AND ADVENTURE IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES (BARTON 2011) VIA MOODLE.**

Define the following terms:

- Hazard
- Risk
- Qualitative Risk Assessment
- Quantitative Risk Assessment
- Real Risk
- Perceived Risk



# REFERENCES

Attarian, A., (2012) *Risk Management in Outdoor Adventure Programs* Leeds: Human Kinetics

Barton, B., (2007) *Safety, Risk & Adventure In Outdoor Activities*. London: Sage Publications Ltd.

Haddock, C. (1993) *Managing Risks In Outdoor Activities*. Wellington: New Zealand Mountain Safety Council Inc.

