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Let's Be Clear About Risk Assessments!



Risk Assessments are pretty much the basic go-to for the start of any Health and Safety set up, not only do they help eliminate accidents happening in your work environment, they also prompt you to be thorough, therefore highlighting risks you may not have even known were there in the first place.

The reason you are required to do Risk Assessments are 'the obvious' removing or reducing of the risk, leading to a safer working environment and fewer accidents. Did you know that Risk Assessments are a company's LEGAL REQUIREMENT? As stated in The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, it is an employers duty to undertake Risk Assessment to keep employees safe in the workplace.

So how do we carry out a Risk Assessment? Firstly, we recommend having a walk around your workplace and writing down anything that shows itself as 'a potential to cause harm', a good idea is to ask your employees what they also consider to be a risk. Remember that risks aren't just always an obvious tripping hazard you spot or something that could fall, hazards include things like the chemicals (even cleaning products) that you keep, electrical equipment, tools etc. So be sure to be eagle eyed!

From this you can then work out how to reduce the potential of the risk actually causing harm. Once you have done this you will then move on to scoring the risk, this is done using the 'risk matrix', you start by picking out the likelihood of an accident actually occurring on a 1-5 rating, 1 being the least likely to happen, then pick the severity of the outcome if the accident was to happen, 1 being very little harm and 5 being serious, combining these will give you your overall score. We advise that if the score falls into the orange or red area, go back to reducing the potential of the risk and try to see if there is anymore you can do. We have a copy of the risk matrix available in our free download section.

We hope this helps you to understand Risk Assessments a little bit more, if you are still in doubt then we can offer our advice if you contact us.

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At Craven Safety Services

- We have a new starter! We have welcomed Jake Donald to the team here, he is currently our apprentice, Jake is attending college once a week and will be completing his training alongside this to eventually join our expanding team of Health & Safety Advisors!
- It seems it was only a few weeks ago we completed our fundraising walk, but we are back at it again organising our next venture! The team have decided we are going to climb Scafell Pike this coming September. This is again for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance charity as we are still so amazed by the work they carry out! If you would like to donate the smallest amount or even read our story then visit our Justgiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/craven-safety-services1>.
- We are very passionate about getting information out to businesses and the community about important Health & Safety information, if you know anyone who could benefit to our newsletter then let them know they can have a free subscription themselves.

In the Media

- After the success of last years 'Stop. Make a change' campaign, the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (Ceca) is encouraging for everyone to get involved again this year on a Health & Safety stand down day. It gives employees and employers to get together to speak through issues such as mental health, fatigue, plant safety and respiratory health. This could bring great success for Health & Safety in any business, not just engineering. To have a read of this interesting article visit ... <https://www.newcivilengineer.com/business-culture/industry-health-and-wellbeing-day-back-for-2018/10027240.article>

We are always looking to assist businesses with their Health & Safety, if you know of anyone who would benefit from our services please do let us know. Many thanks.

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