

Risk Assessment Matrix

		Hazard Probability				
		Frequent	Likely	Occasional	Seldom	Unlikely
Hazard Effect	Catastrophic	Extreme	Extreme	High	High	Medium
	Critical	Extreme	High	High	Medium	Low
	Moderate	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
	Negligible	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low

Figure B.1 Considering both the likelihood that a given hazard will occur and the effect that the hazard would create, the matrix provides an overall risk assessment of the hazard. For instance, if the hazard were considered to be an event that seldom occurs but had a moderate effect, the overall risk assessment would be low. On the other hand, if hazard had a moderate effect but frequently occurred, the assessment would be high. This assessment helps the supervisor decide where to place his or her priorities in reducing risks and to define at what level a risk management decision can be made.