NEW MEXICO TECH
SCIENCE • ENGINEERING • RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Risk Assessment or Hazard Assessment?

The reality is **you need both**. The level of the hazard multiplied by the likelihood of its occurrence gives you the risk.

In order to do a hazard assessment, you must have inventories and standard operating procedures(SOP's).

Use **RAMP** to guide you

Recognize the hazard

- What are the hazards associated with the instruments, chemicals, materials in your lab?
- Use your SOP's to identify hazards from actions such as the dust from a material you are cutting, or a volatile chemical reaction from a mixture you need.

Assess the risk

- Will you be exposed to a dangerous level of dust/chemicals? How likely are you to cut yourself? Is there an explosion risk? Etc.

Minimize the risk

- What substitutions, engineering controls, administrative controls, and/or PPE can you use to minimize the risk?
- Do not work alone in the lab
- Have an unattended operations protocol and ensure everyone is following it.

Prepare for emergencies

- Have a list of emergency contacts in your lab and ensure everyone knows where it is.
- Have emergency protocols in place for each associated risk
- Train lab personnel on their role in emergencies and keep a record of these trainings.