

Scoring Hazards to Make Work Travel Safer

This 3-page example shows a framework for reducing risks. It can help you decide if a trip is safe to make, and if there are opportunities to make changes that reduce risks. This example uses common risk factors. The ones your drivers face may be different but applying the same approach will work.

A basic hazard scoring system

The chart below lists driving-related risk factors (in grey). It provides a score for each one based on the probability of a crash occurring and/or how severe it would be.

- Least serious risk factors: Green, one point.
- More serious factors: Yellow, 2 points.
- Most serious factors: Red, 3 points.

Risk factors									
# of people in vehicle	Driver experience	Road type	Weather forecast	Lighting/ visibility	Commun- ication	Traffic volume	Trip duration	High risk locations	Risk of violence
Driver only	More than 5 years	Paved	Clear	Daylight	Monitored tracking	Light	Less than 2 hours	None	Unlikely
Driver & one passenger	2 to 5 years	Gravel (resource road)	Wet	Sunrise/ sunset	Reliable cell/satellite phone	Moderate	2 to 6 hours	Up to 3	Possible, but unlikely
Driver & 2 or more passengers	Less than 2 years	Off-road (4x4 needed)	Inclement	Night/dark	Unreliable or none	Heavy	More than 6 hours	More than 3	Quite possible

Applying scores

In this approach, trips are approved based on how risky they are. Trips with lower risk can be approved more easily than trips with higher risk. Organizations can set their own thresholds. Here's an example:

Risk score 18 or less = low risk trip. Supervisor approval required.	Risk score 19 to 24 = moderate risk trip. Manager approval required.	Risk score more than 24 = high risk trip. VP approval required.

Scenario: Scoring an employee trip plan

Ben is regional sales rep for ABC Medical Supplies. He is planning a trip from his Yaletown office to meet with clients in Chilliwack. Ben has fewer than 2 years of driving experience and will drive alone. He plans to use a familiar route along Highway 1 and major streets. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. and should end by 4 p.m. Ben expects moderate traffic on the way out but heavy traffic on the way back. Since it is December, he expects much of the 2-hour trip home will be in the dark. The weather forecast shows light afternoon rain, turning to heavy rain and wind for late afternoon and evening. When Ben checks DriveBC, he sees 4 road construction projects currently along the way.

Scoring Ben's initial trip plan

# of people in vehicle	Driver experience	Road type	Weather forecast	Lighting/ visibility	Commun-ication	Traffic volume	Trip duration	High risk locations	Risk of violence
Driver only	Less than 2 years	Paved	Inclement	Night/dark	Reliable cell/satellite phone	Heavy	2 to 6 hours	More than 3	Unlikely
1	3	1	3	3	2	3	2	3	1

ABC Medical Supplies trip approval thresholds

- **18 or less** = routine trip. Supervisor approval required.
- **19 to 24** = moderate risk trip. Manager approval required.
- **More than 24** = high risk trip. VP approval required.

Risk score = 22

Check with division manager to approve the trip.

Adjusting the plan to make the trip safer

Ben thinks about the trip and sees there are opportunities to reduce risks. If he reschedules the meeting for 10 a.m., he can travel to Chilliwack and back during daylight hours. He should be able to complete his trip before afternoon traffic volume increases and the weather turns nasty.

Scoring Ben's improved trip plan									
# of people in vehicle	Driver experience	Road type	Weather forecast	Lighting/ visibility	Commun- ication	Traffic volume	Trip duration	High risk locations	Risk of violence
Driver only	Less than 2 years	Paved	Wet	Daylight	Reliable cell/satellite phone	Moderate	2 to 6 hours	More than 3	Unlikely
1	3	1	2	1	2	2	2	3	1

ABC Medical Supplies trip approval thresholds

- **18 or less** = routine trip. Supervisor approval required.
- **19 to 24** = moderate risk trip. Manager approval required.
- **More than 24** = high risk trip. VP approval required.

Risk score = 18

Supervisor approval required.

Fine-tuning the trip plan

By making those changes, Ben reduces his risk score. He takes his trip plan to his supervisor for approval. As they discuss the regular trips Ben makes to see clients, they consider the risks of getting from Yaletown to Highway 1. They check the ICBC Intersection Crash map and see that the usual route Ben takes has more high crash frequency intersections than another route. They agree Ben will try the alternate route.

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