



RISK MANAGEMENT

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DID YOU KNOW that in most circumstances, good risk management is simply good management?

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AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS

What is risk management?

Risk management is the process of identifying, assessing and controlling or minimizing a certain risk that may involve bodily harm or financial loss. Organizations such as ours are to take a hard look at our values, and to exam our programs with a view to reducing liability.

Risk management is not a new concept. It has been used in major corporations for many years. There is not a major corporation worth its salt that does not perform some sort of risk management. In general terms, risk management is a generic system that can be applied to any situation no matter how large or small.

Neither is risk management just a fancy word for safety. If risk management is performed correctly and is conducted on an ongoing basis, the end result of the effort is safety. The saying "forewarned is forearmed" is an apt description of the management of risk.

Risk Management Process within St. John Ambulance

St. John Ambulance has a legal and moral responsibility to do everything reasonable to ensure safety in our volunteer operations. This process in turn generates more informed decisions and better services. The risk management process does not manage the risks but rather guides the manager of volunteers in making more informed decisions.

Every volunteer and community service program must define or identify the extent of risk it is able and willing to tolerate. The nature of positions into which volunteers are placed can have a significant impact on the degree of organizational exposure to liability. There is an increasing level of awareness and expectation in Canada and abroad of the need to manage risks. We cannot rely solely on insurance as a means of risk mitigation.

Here is how we plan on examining risks within St. John Ambulance:

We will pull our collective experience together to come up with a list of all potential risks we face on a day-to-day basis. We'll then focus on these risks one by one. Once a risk is identified it is then evaluated with regard to the likelihood of its occurrence and the magnitude of harm should it present itself. The risks are then prioritized with the highest risk at the top. We will then plan, control and strategize against these risks, as they pertain to the various programs. Once that is complete, we will come up with an action plan to minimize these risks as best we can.

If risk management is to be truly effective within St. John Ambulance, it is important that all volunteers and staff be totally committed, involved and educated in the concepts of risk management. Can you identify a potential risk in your area? Contact your local office right away!



At this festive time of the year, the staff and volunteers at National Office extend warm wishes to you and your family for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!