

# Risk Assessment

## A brief guide for samba groups

If an event organiser asks you to supply a risk assessment, it's because they (should) have their own risk assessment for the whole event, but they cannot be aware of all possible hazards that performers, contractors, traders etc may bring to that event. Your risk assessment is only concerned with things that are under your direct control. Dealing with bomb threats, crowd control and suitability of performance areas is not your concern.

There's lots of information available on this topic, mostly from the Health and Safety Executive, but put simply this is about common sense.

When writing a risk assessment consider these three questions.

1. Can you identify any hazards, could they harm the performers or the public?
2. What is the level of risk - the probability that someone would be harmed by the hazard?
3. What control measures exist, or need to be put in place to remove or minimise the risk?

The important point about all of this is 'keep it simple'.

Circumstances will alter for each performance, but there will be common elements. The next page shows an example of a risk assessment for my group, it's a general outdoor assessment. If we get asked to play indoors, on the back of a lorry, or on board a boat it will have to be rewritten.

I would strongly suggest that if you do provide an event organiser with a risk assessment, you include the paragraph (or something similar) that is at the bottom of the example.

I'm grateful to Mick Pyke and Ray Shakeshaft for their contributions to this document.

Mike Cowley

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## Penzamba Risk Assessment (outdoor performance)

Identified Hazard	Performers or Public	Risk Level	Control Measures
Slip or trip	Perf.	Low	Maintain awareness, avoid unsuitable surfaces.
Fire	Perf.	Low	Maintain awareness, avoid naked flame near costume
Public order (Drunkenness, high spirits, crowd crush)	Perf. Pub.	Low	Maintain awareness, avoid confrontations. Avoid enclosed areas with no escape route. Modify or abandon performance accordingly.
Musculo - skeletal injury	Perf.	Low	Proficiency of performers. Protective padding. Provision of rest breaks within repertoire.
Cuts & blisters	Perf.	Low	Proficiency of performers. Minor first aid kit
Extreme weather	Perf.	Low	Maintain awareness. Suitable clothing. Provision of sunscreen. Seek alternative performance area (shade / shelter), or abandon performance.
Noise	Perf. Pub.	Low	Maintain awareness. Modify technique/repertoire accordingly. Suitability of performance area. Availability of earplugs for performers if required.
Equipment hazard (drum falling over, rolling away)	Pub.	Low	Maintain awareness. Keep public and equipment clear of performance area.

All reasonably practicable steps will be taken to conduct our performance with due respect to the safety and health of the public and band members. This document does not relinquish the responsibility of event organisers to ensure the provision of safe performance areas and crowd control, and any other aspects of the event outside the direct control of Penzamba.