# Risk Assessment
## Cover Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Assessment Code:</th>
<th>Risk Assessment Title:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XCS(HS)026.05</td>
<td>COVID-19 Secure RA Overview (from Autumn 2020)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This Assessment/Review was undertaken on (Date):</th>
<th>This Assessment will be Reviewed again on (Date):</th>
<th>Overall Risk:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18/08/2020 Reviewed 25/09/2020 Reviewed 02/10/2020 Reviewed 13/10/2020</td>
<td>14/12/2020</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Centre:</th>
<th>School: Division:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross College</td>
<td>Health &amp; Safety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Assessor:</th>
<th>Assistant Principal:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sheryl Nixon, H&amp;S Manager</td>
<td>Jennifer Eastham, Vice Principal</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of Activity/Equipment:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wider re-opening of College from August 2020 to provide a full high-quality education programme to Students and Apprentices. (In accordance with Government Guidance 'What FE Colleges and providers will need to do from the start of the 2020 Autumn Term').</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Location/Venue:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross-College</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Work Activity & Equipment**

**Hazard:** The hazard for this activity is the virus COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

**Who might be harmed and how:** Who - Staff, Students, Apprentices, Visitors (e.g. contractors, suppliers, persons delivering/collecting items).
How – Contracting the virus COVID-19 (Coronavirus) via direct transmission (e.g. close contact with people coughing/sneezing) or indirect transmission (e.g. touching contaminated surfaces).

**Note:** A range of control measures will be used to prevent persons contracting the virus using a system of controls* (1-9) below: ("the system of controls referred to here is stipulated in the Government Guidance document: What FE Colleges and providers will need to do from the start of the 2020 Autumn Term").

**Prevention (1-6)**
1. Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend College.
2. Clean hands thoroughly, more often than usual.
3. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.
4. Enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach.
5. Minimising contact between individuals and maintain social distance.
6. Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

**Response to any infection (7-9)**
7. Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
8. Manage confirmed cases of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).
9. Contain any outbreak by following local (Blackburn with Darwen) Health Protection Team advice.

All Staff must abide by the control measures set out in this Risk Assessment and in any area/department specific 'COVID-19 Secure Risk Assessment'(s) that are applicable to them and abide by the rules contained in the 'COVID-19 Staff Briefing'. Staff found not to be following the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action.

Staff must proactively encourage Students, including Apprentices and visitors (as above) to follow these rules. (Students will be given a handout of the rules relating to them). Students found not to be following the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Concerns:** Staff should raise any concerns with their Line Manager. Students should raise any concerns with their Tutor, Apprentices should raise any concerns with their Assessor.

**This Risk Assessment is in accordance with Government Guidance:**
- What FE Colleges and providers will need to do from the start of the 2020 Autumn Term - LINK
- COVID-19 Secure Guidance - for Offices - LINK
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Control Measures</th>
<th>RAG Risk Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell                     | • Individuals with any COVID-19 symptoms (or individuals that live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms) must NOT attend College premises.  
  • The main COVID-19 (Coronavirus) symptoms are: a new continuous cough, a fever, or anosmia – a loss of or a change in your normal (usual) sense of smell and/or taste. You only need to have one of these symptoms.  
  • Self-isolate - Individuals with symptoms must completely self-isolate immediately for 10 days (or longer if they still have a fever or feel very ill) and follow the Government’s ‘Stay at Home’ Guidance.  
  • Members of the symptomatic person’s household must also self-isolate for 14 days (unless the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result). They must also follow the Government’s ‘Stay at Home’ Guidance.  
  • Testing is now available to anyone with symptoms via NHS UK (or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone if they do not have internet access).  
  • Keyworker testing is available for all Staff (with symptoms) via the Government website.  
  • If an individual becomes unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, whilst in College they must be sent home and told to self-isolate immediately for 10 days, follow the Government’s ‘Stay at Home’ Guidance and get tested (as above). If an individual is waiting to be collected, Staff should escort them to the isolation room within that building. Staff must follow the guidance ‘2. COVID-19: What to Do if a Student or Staff has Symptoms Whilst in College’ - the guidance will be circulated to all Staff. Staff are encouraged to keep a printed copy in their classroom or area for quick access.  
  • Full Guidance and FAQ’s are available in the ‘PHE NW COVID-19 Template Resource Pack for Schools’.  
  • For reporting absences due to having COVID symptoms/positive case please follow the guidance: 1. Guidance (COVID Reporting, Suspected and Positive Cases Checklist)  
  — All resources are available in College Documents/Health & Safety/Back to College – Covid-19 Pack | 4 Medium         |
| Clean hands thoroughly, more often than usual | - Wash hands regularly* (more often than usual) with soap and running water for a minimum of 20 seconds and dry thoroughly using paper towels provided. Toilet facilities are widely available in all buildings. Certain areas also have handwashing facilities available for Staff and Students in those areas e.g. Beauty, Hairdressing, Catering.* when arriving on campus, changing rooms, and before and after eating.  
- The use of hand dryers is discouraged – these have been de-fused where possible and signage displayed to instruct individuals to use paper towels to dry their hands instead.  
- NHS hand washing video to be played on TV screens around College.  
- Use hand-sanitiser (minimum 60% alcohol) in-between hand washing with soap and water. Available at the main entrance to buildings. Communication to Students will highlight the requirement for using hand sanitiser when entering buildings. Signage is also displayed. Individual's may also use their own personal supply of hand sanitiser.  
- Alcohol hand sanitiser must be located away from direct sunlight, electrical sources and ignition sources.  
- Duty Head and Manager building rota - walk-rounds at peak times to direct Students as required. However, hand sanitiser stations or handwashing facilities (toilets) are not required to be monitored at all times – all Staff and Students are responsible for their own health and safety. |
| --- | --- |
| Promote and encourage the ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ approach | - Sneeze or cough into a tissue, put it in the bin immediately, kill the virus by washing and drying your hands thoroughly or using alcohol hand sanitiser.  
- Blue roll is available in rooms throughout College and toilet paper is available in toilet facilities throughout College, which can be used as tissues. Individual's may also use their own personal supply of tissues.  
- If you do not have a tissue, sneeze or cough into the crook of your arm (inner elbow) then wash and dry your hands thoroughly.  
- Bins are available in rooms and toilet facilities throughout College. They will be emptied regularly (at least daily) by the Cleaning Team (Cleaners will be provided with disposable gloves). |
| -- | 6 Medium |
| Cleaning | - Enhanced cleaning will be in place, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach.  
- The Cleaning Team will clean College buildings daily, with particular focus on toilet facilities, food areas, frequently touched surfaces and items e.g. door handles/plates, handrails on stairs, light switches, lift buttons. Bins will be emptied regularly (at least daily) and gloves will be provided to cleaning Staff. Cleaning regimes will follow Government Guidance: **COVID-19: cleaning in non-healthcare settings**.  
- Disinfectant spray bottles and disposable cloths i.e. blue roll (or antibacterial wipes) will be provided for users to clean equipment and surfaces before and after use (between users/groups) e.g. desk/table, chairs, any shared/multi-use equipment, computer monitor/ keyboard/ mouse/ printer. **Staff and Students are responsible for in-between’ cleaning**. - Teaching Staff must proactively monitor and direct Students to clean surfaces and equipment between users/groups using the cleaning materials available.  
- Disinfectant spray must be sprayed onto the disposable cloth, do not spray directly onto electrical equipment.  
- CoSHH risk assessment and MSDS (material safety data sheet) for the disinfectant spray is available from Facilities and Estates Deputy Manager on request.  
- **Cleaning following a suspected COVID-19 case** - if an individual becomes unwell with COVID-19 symptoms whilst in College or the suspected case has been in College premises within the last 72 hours - Staff must notify the Cleaning Supervisors (Angela Alty, Sharon Haczycki) and Estates Helpdesk (cc MIS-General for timetabling) to arrange cordon off and cleaning of the area. Cleaning will follow the Government Guidelines ‘**COVID-19 Decontamination in non-healthcare settings**’. |
| -- | 2 Low |
| Social Distancing | - Each area may consider blended learning options as appropriate (such as 50% on campus and 50% online/home learning).  
- **It is still important to reduce contact between people as much as possible – this can be done in two ways:**  
  1. ‘Bubbles’ (groups)  
  2. **Social Distancing** – 2m (metres) where possible or 1m+ other mitigating measures  
- The Government Guidance encourages using both bubbles and social distancing together where possible but realises that this is not possible 100% of the time in all situations. Therefore, bubbles or social distancing can be used independently. For example, some curriculum areas will suit being in bubbles (e.g. single subjects such as Hairdressing. |
| -- | 6 Medium |
Vulnerable Staff and Students

- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council have PAUSED the shielding advice for all pregnant women and people in the ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ (shielded) category from 5th October 2020 in line with the rest of England.
### Definitions:

**a) Clinically extremely vulnerable** – (shielding letter from GP) Shielding is PAUSED.

**b) Clinically Vulnerable** - higher risk of severe illness from Coronavirus:
- pregnant women of any gestation
- persons over the age of 70
- persons with certain underlying health conditions e.g. respiratory and auto-immune diseases
- Black, Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) and aged 55 and over

**c) Living with a 'shielded' or 'clinically vulnerable' person**

- Vulnerable Staff and Students (and people living with them) should return to work or study but should take particular care to follow social distancing, hygiene measures and follow all College COVID rules.

- **Staff in the shielding (extremely clinically vulnerable) category** – can return to work. Managers must carry out a ‘People Risk Assessment’ for the individual identifying any additional control measures required.

- **Students in the shielding (extremely clinically vulnerable) category** – can return to College. Please speak to ALS (Becky Skarratts) for advice on risk assessment and additional control measures.

- **Staff in the ‘clinically vulnerable’ category** - Managers must carry out a ‘People Risk Assessment’ for the individual identifying any additional control measures required.

- **Staff who are pregnant** – should be considered on a case by case basis (e.g. if they are 28 weeks pregnant or more, or have underlying health conditions that make them higher risk) subject to discussion with their Midwife/GP about individual risk factors and the COVID-19 control measures College has in place.
  - Managers must carry out a ‘People Risk Assessment’ for the individual identifying any additional control measures required as well as following the normal pregnancy procedure and risk assessment forms.

- **Students who are pregnant** – should be considered on a case by case basis (e.g. if they are 28 weeks pregnant or more, or have underlying health conditions that make them higher risk) subject to discussion with their Midwife/GP about individual risk factors and the COVID-19 control measures College has in place.
  - Please follow the normal pregnancy procedure and risk assessment forms for Students. You will also need to think about COVID-19 as a hazard.

- **People Risk Assessment Template** available on: College Documents/Health & Safety/Back to College – Covid-19 Pack

- **Pregnancy Guidance and Risk Assessment Forms**: College Documents – Health & Safety/ Expectant and Nursing Mothers

### Face Coverings

**Blackburn with Darwen (BwD) Borough Council have made face coverings mandatory** in all enclosed public spaces including workplaces**, shops, libraries, hair and beauty salons. **People attending College premises must bring their own face covering** (re-usable face coverings should be placed in their own plastic bag e.g. freezer bag).

* **Exemptions** - Anyone who cannot wear a face covering “because of any physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability”, or who would experience “severe distress” from doing so, is exempt. - LINK to Guidance (see section 3). Exemption badges are available for Students via their Personal Tutors.
  - In no circumstances should face coverings be used by persons who may not be able to handle them as directed (e.g. those with special educational needs or disabilities) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

**In educational establishments, workplaces** and offices - where safe COVID working has been established, such as at desks, in classrooms and workshops, face coverings do not need to be worn.
- Face coverings should be worn when, however briefly, people are using shared/enclosed communal spaces such as entrances/exits, corridors, toilet facilities and kitchens. They should also be worn in all other enclosed working environments. When working outdoors and where able to maintain social distancing, people are not expected to wear face coverings.
  - Face coverings are also mandatory on public transport.

**PPE**

- PPE will be provided to identified at-risk groups including: Support Workers/ Carers providing intimate care needs, Cleaners, and First Aiders. PPE may include, face mask or visor, disposable apron, disposable gloves, eye protection.
- Staff/ Students who would normally require PPE as part of their role (as identified in departmental risk assessments e.g. Construction, hairdressing) will continue to be provided with relevant PPE as normal.
- Guidance for safely putting on and taking off PPE is available from Public Health England ‘[donning and doffing of PPE](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/donning-and-doffing-ppe)’. Staff must brief Staff and Students on this guidance.
- Used PPE should be disposed of in normal bins provided across campus, Cleaners will be provided with gloves to empty bins.

**Emergency Evacuation and Fire arrangements**

- Normal emergency evacuation arrangements apply (including the use of the College emergency number ext 2222 and attendance by Security and Estates Teams).
- Students or Staff with PEEPs need to be identified as soon as possible by HoS and ALS to ensure evacuation arrangements include their needs (PEEP details are held centrally by H&S).
- Evac+ Chair demonstrations can be booked by contacting Lee.Johnstone@blackburn.ac.uk 01254 292864 – face coverings must be worn by everyone participating in the demonstration (unless they are exempt) - [LINK](https://www.blackburn.ac.uk) to Guidance (see section 3).
- Building occupants must evacuate the building promptly as they would normally using the nearest available emergency exit route, irrespective of one-way systems and social distancing.
- When standing at the designated fire assembly point(s), try to spread out as much as possible but always staying away from the building, look out for other hazards such as vehicles moving around the car park.

**First Aid arrangements**

- Normal first aid and emergency aid arrangements apply (including the use of the College emergency number ext 2222).
- Minor injuries (e.g. minor cuts, grazes, feeling unwell, panic attacks) should be dealt with within centres/ departments using first aid kits available throughout College (please do not call for a First Aider).
- First Aiders will be provided with PPE (face mask or visor, disposable gloves, disposable apron, eye protection) and specific COVID-19 Guidance (including CPR) for First Aiders.
- If bodily fluids need to be cleaned, the First Aider or other member of Staff will request assistance from the Estates Team (team have access to PPE and spill kits).

**Catering**

- A separate risk assessment has been carried out for catering (canteens)

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**Response to infection - confirmed positive cases**

Blackburn College will:
- Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.
- Manage confirmed cases of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).
- Contain any outbreak by following local (Blackburn with Darwen) Public Health Protection Team advice.
- It is important that Staff maintain class registers of Staff and Students (as per normal procedures). This will enable us to provide accurate information to NHS Test and Trace and local (Blackburn with Darwen) Public Health Protection Team, if required.
- Management of confirmed positive cases:
  - All Staff must follow the guidance and reporting procedures (‘[1. Guidance (COVID Reporting, Suspected and Positive Cases Checklist)](https://www.blackburn.ac.uk)’ and ‘[2. COVID-19: What to Do if a Student or Staff has Symptoms Whilst in College](https://www.blackburn.ac.uk)’) to manage suspected and confirmed cases. Staff are responsible for remaining in close contact (by phone or email) with the individual (case) to disseminate advice and gain further information where necessary (advice for Staff is available from the H&S and HR Departments).
  - Full Guidance and FAQ’s are available in the ‘[PHE NW COVID-19 Template Resource Pack for Schools](https://www.blackburn.ac.uk)’.
  - All Staff must follow advice, instructions and requests from the local (Blackburn with Darwen) Public Health Protection Team or NHS Test and Trace to contain any localised outbreaks.

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**Emergency Evacuation and PEEP (Evacuation Chair) arrangements**

- Evac+ Chair demonstrations can be booked by contacting Lee.Johnstone@blackburn.ac.uk 01254 292864 – face coverings must be worn by everyone participating in the demonstration (unless they are exempt) - [LINK](https://www.blackburn.ac.uk) to Guidance (see section 3).
- Additional outdoor seating has been installed to relieve demand on limited indoor seating in canteens.
- Some classrooms will also be available for Students to remain in their bubbles or class for breaks and lunch, where appropriate (dependent on security considerations).
- Staff are encouraged to bring in their own packed lunch at eat it at their desks where possible. Social distancing in Staff kitchen areas must be followed - please follow any signage and briefings from your Manager regarding maximum numbers or other rules in your specific area.
- Vending machines – blue roll and disinfectant spray bottles (or antibacterial wipes) will be provided for users to clean vending machines before and after use (between users). Signage will be displayed and communicated to users via the Staff Briefing, COVID H&S video and Student handout. All users (Staff and Students) are responsible for their own health and safety and cleaning between users.
- Disinfectant spray must be sprayed onto the disposable cloth, do not spray directly onto electrical equipment.
- CoSHH risk assessment and MSDS (material safety data sheet) for the disinfectant spray is available from Facilities and Estates Deputy Manager on request.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ventilation Pre-term building checks</th>
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| Good ventilation to circulate fresh air is encouraged, this can be achieved by opening windows, or using building HVAC or air-handling systems. Each of our buildings (and their HVAC or air-handling systems) are different; we have sought professional guidance from an external contractor to enable our systems to be re-configured, where required, to allow for fresh-air flow into buildings rather than re-circulated air.
| Desk fans must only be used in areas where there already is good ventilation of fresh air (and must not be pointing directly at people).
| The Facilities and Estates Department (in conjunction with specialist contractors) have carried out all necessary pre-term building checks and ensured that statutory testing and inspections are in date e.g. legionella, emergency lighting, fire alarm systems. |

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<tr>
<th>Mental Health</th>
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| Staff - Employee Assistance Programme (Health Assured) offer a range of services available to Staff. To access these services please use the username: Blackburn and password: College:

- 24 hour confidential helpline 0800 028 0199 for Staff and their immediate family members to access (spouse/partners and children aged 16 to 24 in full time education, living in the same household).
- Health e-Hub App - lots of free resources app available by downloading the App (Google Play or Apple App Store)
- Monthly newsletter (via All Staff email).
- Students - Support is available for Students via the Pastoral Hub and Student Counsellor.
- Important COVID-19 information and updates will continue to be circulated via ‘All Staff’ emails, Moodle and the main Blackburn College website, as appropriate. |

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<th>Ethnicity considerations</th>
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| Evidence shows that people from Black, Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are more severely affected by COVID-19 although the underlying factors are not yet fully known. The Government has announced (29.07.2020) funding into six UK studies that will analyse data on social circumstances, health and day-to-day activities, and investigate genetic risk factors. Prof Chris Whitty, the UK’s Chief Medical Adviser, stated “it is critical that we understand what factors are driving this risk to address them effectively”.

- We will keep abreast of the latest scientific information and update this risk assessment with any new or amended control measures where required, in line with Government Guidance.
- Managers are responsible for conducting individual ‘People’ risk assessments for Staff in the clinically extremely vulnerable (shielded), clinically vulnerable and Black, Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) over the age of 55 categories, identifying any additional control measures required.
- People Risk Assessment Template available on: College Documents/Health & Safety/Back to College – Covid-19 Pack |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visitors, Contractors and Suppliers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitors by appointment only.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contractors and Suppliers must arrange visits/ deliveries/ collections with the Facilities &amp; Estates Manager, Deputy Manager or Estates Supervisor who will ensure social distancing and hygiene is maintained - following COVID-19 Secure Guidance - for Offices - LINK</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Assessment, Policies and</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Student Behaviour Policy and associated disciplinary procedures have been updated to include COVID-19 requirements. Students found not to be following the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Teaching Staff are responsible for</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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### Procedures Review

Review and update existing Risk Assessments, as required and consider if additional controls are needed. Health & Safety and Facilities & Estates Department risk assessments have been reviewed and amended as appropriate e.g. Cleaning, Legionella, First Aid, Fire.

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**Risk Rating Matrix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Most Likely 4</th>
<th>Likely 3</th>
<th>Unlikely 2</th>
<th>Most Unlikely 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Likelihood</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unlikely 2</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most Unlikely 1</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
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**Risk Rating**

- **Negligible 1**
- **Minor injury 2**
- **Major injury 3**
- **Fatality 4**

**SEVERITY**

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**KEY**

- **HIGH**
  - Stop, avoid or discontinue until risk level reduced
- **MEDIUM**
  - Risks to be reduced as far as possible.
  - Control measures applied.
  - If associated with fatality or major injury further consider likelihood
- **LOW**
  - No additional controls are required.
  - Document existing controls.
  - Monitor to ensure controls are maintained.

*Risk rating calculated by multiplying Likelihood x Hazard Severity*