

Risk Management

Hazard Mitigation Strategies

Each hazard should have one or more controls that can effectively eliminate, avoid, or reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

- The best controls will be consistent with mission objectives and optimize use of available resources (manpower, material, equipment, funding, time). Effective controls reduce the **probability** (likelihood that the hazard will result in a mishap), **severity** (the consequence of the mishap if it occurs), or the **exposure** (how frequently, length of time, or number of people making contact with the hazard).
- Engineering controls are the most desirable since they correct deficit states. Less desirable is the use of personal protective equipment or warning devices, procedure changes, or training that is dependent on the member to reliably and consistently apply the control.
- Generally, revising operational or support procedures may be the lowest-cost control alternative. While this approach does not eliminate the hazard, it may significantly reduce the likelihood of a mishap or the severity of a mishap, and the change can usually be implemented quickly.
- If risk exceeds the benefit or value of the activity, do not take the risk. This is a valid option when you do not have the authority to apply proper or necessary controls and is a way to elevate the risk to the proper level.

The letters in STAAR can be used to identify potential hazard mitigation strategies.

STAAR MODEL

Element	Mitigation Strategy
S Spread Out	Move forces, equipment, or tasks to other areas in order to avoid risk to the entire mission. For example, placing assets in a single area can lead to catastrophic losses if an explosion or fire breaks out. Spreading your resources can mitigate this potential risk by reducing the exposure of these resources in a single, combined area.
T Transfer	Transfer some or all of the mission or task to another individual, unit or platform that is better positioned, more survivable, or more expendable. Transfer does not decrease the probability or severity of the risk to the unit but reduces risk to the total force.
A Avoid	Avoid specific risks by “going around” them or doing the mission or task in a different way. For example, risks associated with a night mission or task may be avoided by planning for daytime. This might present other hazards that would need to be identified and assessed.
A Accept	Accept risk when the benefits clearly outweigh the costs, but only as much as necessary to accomplish the mission or task. For example, position PPE or administrative people on deck for shorter periods of time.
R Reduce	Reduce the number of individuals, equipment, or resources exposure to a particular risk is a simple way of mitigating overall risk. Although this strategy may reduce risk, it must be weighed carefully against potential rewards. Reduction can sometimes have the negative consequence of not having back-up options available when you need them.