

The “5 M’s”

A Guide to Risk Assessments & Step 5 of the CAPF 160

**You’ve been assigned to do a risk assessment for an upcoming activity. You’ve got an important job ...
thanks for taking it on!**

Using the 5 M’s in A Risk Assessment:

Here is what you will see when you look at Steps 4 & 5 of the CAPF 160:

Here’s a good way to complete these important steps of the risk assessment:

Step 1: The Plan. Look at the whole plan for the entire activity. You may want to go through in order and write down every event and sub-activity and list each of them in the blocks provided in Step 4.

Step 2: The Hazards. Using the 5 M’s, described below, ask yourself “what can go wrong?” What are all the things that pose a risk? What are the hazards you’ll face in every task?

4. SUB- ACTIVITY or SPECIFIC TASK	5. HAZARD
<p>Note: Each sub-activity or task will probably have multiple hazards/risks associated with it. Each one should be assessed.</p>	<p>Consider Hazards from each of the “5-M” categories in CAPP 163:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member - Media - Machine - Mission/Activity - Management

Member: Take a look at all the information about the members themselves. A few examples:

- Cadets or senior members? - Are they physically able to perform the task?
- Could pre-existing injuries or illnesses be a hazard? - Are they adequately trained?
- Do you expect them to be nervous? Scared? Apprehensive?
- Long hours? The need for rest?
- Look at ALL the vulnerabilities of the members participating.

Medium: This refers to the environment you’ll be facing.

- What is the weather and what effect could it have on the plan? Heat? Cold? Rain?
- How about the terrain? Is the “playing surface” appropriate for the activity?
- Look at ALL the conditions and the hazards they might bring.

Machine: This applies to the airplane, the vehicle, and the gear that will be used.

- Is the equipment well-suited to the task or mission? Will it do what you want it to do?
- Is the equipment well-maintained? Well designed? Are the members trained how to use it?
- Look at ALL the equipment from an airplane down to the smallest canteen or pocket-knife.

Mission: This looks at the plan itself and the complexity of the mission.

- Is the activity well-planned? Look at the pace of the plan.
- Is the plan too complex for the members involved? Too much to do in too little time?

Management: This refers to the organizational factors that influence our activities and missions.

- What do regulations and written guidance say about the activity? Are they being followed?
- Is it clear who is in charge? Is there adequate supervision?

IMPORTANT NOTE: The 5 M’s are a starting point to help you look at a wide variety of hazards. Brainstorm ALL the things that could pose a risk. **The goal of a risk assessment is to ask, and answer:**
“what can go wrong, and what am I doing to prevent it?”