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:

**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?

**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 being.

**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?”

CAP Safety, Sep 19