Introduction:
While risk assessment is an important part of the process for managing OHS risks, you may not need to conduct a formal assessment if a risk is well known and the solution is obvious.

As a general guide, a risk assessment should be done if:
- there is only limited knowledge or disagreement about a hazard,
- there is uncertainty about whether all of the things that can go wrong have been found, and/or
- the situation involves a number of different hazards that are part of the same work process, substance or item of plant and there is a lack of understanding about how the hazards may impact on each other to produce new or greater risks.

Assessing OHS Risks
Risk assessments in matters of Occupational Health and Safety* are based on 2 key factors:
- the severity of any injury/illness resulting from the hazard(s), and
- the likelihood that the injury/illness will actually occur.

*Note: In matters other than OHS (Security, Enterprise Risk Management, etc.) other risk assessment methods may be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEVERITY</th>
<th>LIKELIHOOD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death or permanent disability</td>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term illness or serious injury</td>
<td>LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical attention and short-term incapacity</td>
<td>VERY LOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First aid needed</td>
<td>VERY LOW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Likelihood:
- Very Unlikely: Could happen, but probably never will
- Unlikely: Could happen, but very rarely
- Likely: Could happen sometime
- Very likely: Could happen any time

Assessment of risk level based on likely severity and probability of harm