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## Health and Safety – Why?



In 2024, **124** people went to work and didn't come home.

That, is very bad. But things used to be a lot worse.

In 1974, the **Health and Safety at Work Act** was brought into force in the UK. How many deaths and serious injuries in: -

1958?	168,000
1969?	323,000

Existing laws tried to focus on equipment, and even put the duty on workers to be careful.



The Health and Safety at Work Act placed the greater duty on the employer, while employees still have specific duties, the employer bears most of the burden.

This is then followed up with numerous secondary legislation called Regulations. These cover more specific aspects such as

**Which is why a lot of people feel....**



**Display Equipment**



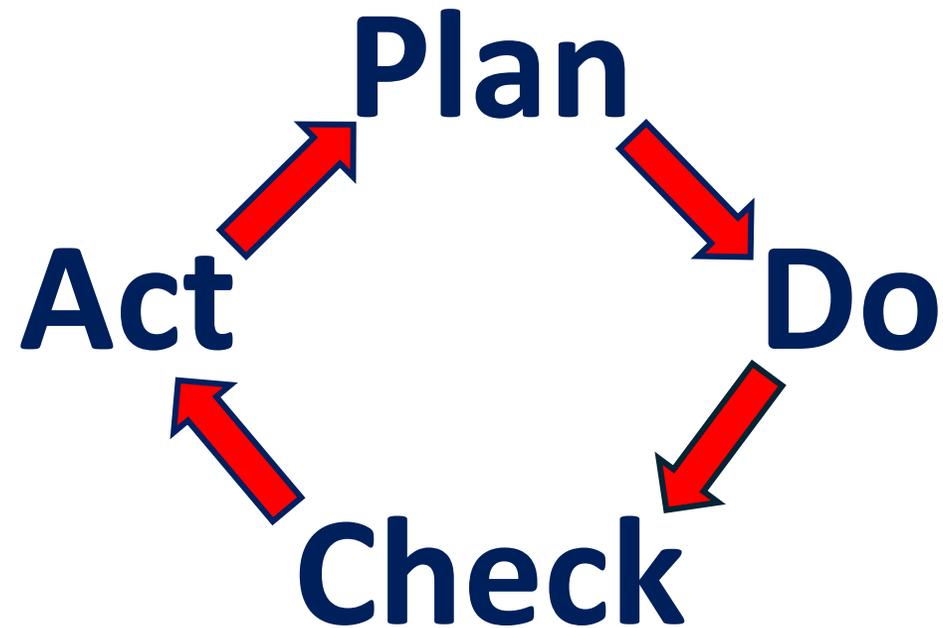
**Health and Safety is Scary**



You all manage health and safety every day. Every time you drive a car, walk down the street or cross a road, you are assessing the risk, working out how to do it safely, and learning to do it better next time.

This is the essence of health and safety. The levels of sophistication required scales with the size or complexity of what your organisation does. But the above principle will stay relevant regardless.

The Health and Safety Executive give a very simple process as a way of managing your health and safety in a organisation. They call it.....



## The Dreaded Risk Assessment

**“Have you ever seen a risk assessment? They make no sense at all!”**

As we have established, you already carry out a thousand risk assessments every day. One or two more isn't going to ruin your day. Writing them down however, might seem daunting. There are a few simple rules: -

- There is no right or wrong way of writing it down, as long as it can be understood.
- Don't overcomplicate things.
- The risk assessment must be understandable by others.
- You must communicate your risk assessment to those doing the task or any other workers that may be affected by the work

## The Dreaded Risk Assessment

“Have you ever seen a risk assessment? They make no sense at all!”

It needs to tell the reader four basic things;

- What might cause something to go wrong
- What might happen if it goes wrong
- Who might be affected
- What are you/your organisation going to do to **REDUCE** the risk

Risk:

Can it be eliminated?

Can it be replaced?

Can it be controlled?

Can the consequences be mitigated

**“Have you ever seen a risk assessment? They make no sense at all!”**

The simplest way of writing down your risk assessment goes something like this;

What might hurt someone	How might it hurt someone	Who might it hurt	What will we do about it
Putting the star on the office Christmas Tree	They could fall off the ladder	Whoever falls off the ladder. Possibly anyone near the ladder	A Suitable (stable and high enough) ladder will be used, a second person will foot the ladder while the star is placed on top of the tree.