GAR Risk Assessment Model

A remarkably effective ORM tool is the GAR (Green-Amber-Red) Risk Assessment Model, which creates a GO-NO GO decision tool. GAR Model incorporates the opinions of multiple involved personnel, which is a limitation of other risk assessment tools that are only completed by a single person. GAR respondents independently assign a personal risk score to eight different elements associated with a mission. The risk score is **zero (No Risk)** through **10 (Maximum Risk)**, which is a personal estimate of risk.

The following elements are evaluated in the GAR Model:

SUPERVISION- The presence of qualified, accessible and effective supervision on the incident. A clear chain of command is in place.

PLANNING- Adequate incident information is available and clear. There is sufficient time to plan, operational guidelines are current, briefing of personnel is being conducted and team input solicited.

CONTINGENCY RESOURCES- Backup resources that can assist if needed. Evaluate shared communications plan and frequencies. Has an alternative plan been evaluated?

COMMUNICATION- Evaluate how well personnel are briefed and communicating. How effective is communication system and is there is an established communication plan? Does the operational environment value input

TEAM SELECTION- Team selection should consider the qualifications and experience level of the individuals. Consider the experience for the mission being performed.

TEAM FITNESS- Consider physical and mental state of the crew. Evaluate team morale and any distractions.

ENVIRONMENT- Consider factors affecting performance of personnel and equipment such as time, temperature, precipitation, topography and altitude. Evaluate site factors such as narrow canyons, forest canopy, technical terrain, snow, swiftwater, etc.

INCIDENT COMPLEXITY- Evaluate severity, exposure time and probability of mishap. Assess difficulty of the mission and proficiency of personnel.

Several members of a team should individually complete GAR scores for a planned task without input from fellow team members. The individual risk scores are summed to come up with a Total Risk Score. If the total risk score falls in the green zone (1 – 35), then the risk is rated low and the mission is considered a "go." A score in the yellow zone (36 - 60) indicates moderate risk and additional mitigations or controls should be put in place before proceeding with the mission. If the total score falls in the red zone (61 - 80), the risk is significant and this indicates a "no go." Upon completion, they
review their results together.

GAR RISK ASSESSMENT SCORE		
1 - 35	36 - 60	61- 80
GREEN GO- Proceed With Mission	AMBER Caution- Mitigate Hazards Before Proceeding	RED NO GO- Stop- Do Not Proceed With Mission

Why this process really works: The ability to assign numerical scores or color codes in the GAR Model is not the key ingredient in how this process serves to perform effective risk assessment. The key ingredient occurs when team members discuss their post-scoring results together, because it generates valuable discussion toward understanding the risks and what actions the team will take to mitigate them.

(1) Individually complete GAR scores for a planned task without input from fellow team members.

Risk Element	Score zero (No Risk) through 10 (Maximum Risk)
SUPERVISION- The presence of qualified, accessible and effective supervision on the incident. A clear chain of command is in place.	
PLANNING- Adequate incident information is available and clear. There is sufficient time to plan, operational guidelines are current, briefing of personnel is being conducted and team input solicited.	
CONTINGENCY RESOURCES- Backup resources that can assist if needed. Evaluate shared communications plan and frequencies. Has an alternative plan been evaluated?	
COMMUNICATION- Evaluate how well personnel are briefed and communicating. How effective is communication system and is there is an established communication plan? Does the operational environment value input	
TEAM SELECTION- Team selection should consider the qualifications and experience level of the individuals. Consider the experience for the mission being performed.	
TEAM FITNESS- Consider physical and mental state of the crew. Evaluate team morale and any distractions.	
ENVIRONMENT- Consider factors affecting performance of personnel and equipment such as time, temperature, precipitation, topography and altitude. Evaluate site factors such as narrow canyons, forest canopy, technical terrain, snow, swiftwater, etc.	
INCIDENT COMPLEXITY- Evaluate severity, exposure time and probability of mishap. Assess difficulty of the mission and proficiency of personnel.	
Total GAR Risk Assessment Score:	
GAR Risk Assessment Color:	

(2) Sum up the individual risk scores come up with a Total Risk Score, code this as Green, Amber, or Red..

GAR RISK ASSESSMENT SCORE		
1 - 35	36 - 60	61- 80
GREEN GO- Proceed With Mission	AMBER Caution- Mitigate Hazards Before Proceeding	RED NO GO- Stop- Do Not Proceed With Mission

(3) Discuss the post-scoring results together as a team.

Any Amber is a Team Amber. Any Red is a team Red.