



Article

## EHS&S Risk Assessment Guide: Our experts go back to basics to define risk

Those of us in the EHS&S (Environmental, Health, Safety & Sustainability) field know that risk is a little word with a lot of weight. How we view risk is becoming increasingly complicated with every year – and that’s not likely to change. The fact is, just like the board game of the same name, real-life risk has simple rules but requires complex interactions.

To add to that inherent complexity, definitions of risk and the magnitude of risk may vary among different stakeholders and decision-makers. Risks are present across the entire business enterprise; risk management decisions addressing one portion of the business may have negative consequences in another portion of the business.

Managing risks to protect business continuity *must* be viewed taking a systems approach. It’s not just about checking compliance boxes anymore. [Going beyond compliance](#) is crucial.

So, I asked experts across the EHS&S spectrum for their thoughts on risk management’s bigger picture and compiled their responses into a guide.

Read on for a sample of their insights.



*“Risk can be a scary term to people. While there is no concrete way to know exactly what will happen, organizations can absolutely develop a method to evaluate and understand their risks by understanding their threats and opportunities across their enterprise. It’s different for each company.”*

[Danyle Hepler](#), CSP, CESCO

Senior Technical Specialist

Danyle Hepler has a lot to say about EHS&S risk management. Check out her [Safety Action Report](#).



*“At its most basic level, risk is the possibility of a loss, and as individuals, each of us perceives risk differently and has a different tolerance for it.”*

[Sunila Gupta](#)

Program Manager



*“I view risk as the potential financial damage resulting from systems failures such as inadequate procedures, employee errors, or any other unplanned event that disrupt business processes.”*

[Mike Lispi](#)

Senior Associate, Permitting, Compliance & Operational Risk

You will find many more perspectives in the full guide “but you can explore the entire conversation now.-

Meanwhile, let me know what *you* think about risk. How is risk defined in your organization?

How risk averse are you? It's obvious that my colleagues and I have a deep interest in risk " leave a comment below or [send me an email](#) and join our conversation.