



Generic Deer Stalking Risk Assessment Guidance and Template

Risk Assessment Guidance

A generic risk assessment is a document that highlights the potential dangers or hazards to anyone taking part in an activity that involves risk. A generic risk assessment also highlights the level of risk involved in the activity and what measures can be put in place to reduce the risk of an accident happening. The generic risk assessment produced by us is a working document that can be tailored to the deerstalkers needs.

The risk level scoreboard below is an easy way of understanding whether an activity is safe and to what level of risk an activity has. When a hazard is identified we have to understand what is the risk of an accident happening from the hazard. Once we know this we can put a control measure in place. The control measure should reduce this risk considerably. If the risk level is still high after the control measure is put in place then it is advisable to rethink the activity or avoid it completely. It is important to note that even if a hazard could cause a fatality, the likelihood of this happening could be very unlikely. Therefore the activity can be carried out in a controlled manner with peace of mind. For example, unsafe use of a firearm is serious and can lead to a fatality. If the user is well trained and competent with using a firearm then the likelihood of a fatality occurring is very unlikely. Using the Risk Level Scoreboard the scoring would be;

1 x 5 = 5 (LIKELIHOOD) VERY UNLIKELY x (SEVERITY) FATAL = (RISK LEVEL) LOW. This example can be seen in the generic risk assessment.

Risk Level Scoreboard

Severity: The level of potential harm	Scoring Criteria						Risk Level: (Likelihood x Severity)		
		NEGLIGIBLE	MINOR	SERIOUS	SEVERE	FATAL			
Likelihood that a hazard will cause harm	VERY UNLIKELY	1	2	3	4	5			
	UNLIKELY	2	4	6	8	10	LOW	1-5	Long-Term Plan for Improvement
	POSSIBLE	3	6	9	12	15	MEDIUM	6-11	Action within 3 to 6 months
	PROBABLE	4	8	12	16	20	HIGH	12-25	Immediate Action

Generic Deer Stalking Risk Assessment Template

Deer Group or Organisation Name:						
Hazard	Risk	Who can be harmed	Control measures	Likelihood	Severity	Risk level
Firearms use	A gunshot wound from accidental discharge or poor judgement	Deer stalkers, Occupiers, Public	Handle firearms in accordance with (DSC1) training. Regular safety checks. Only shoot when there is a safe backstop. Regularly maintain your firearm.	<i>Very Unlikely</i>	<i>FATAL</i>	<i>LOW</i>
Humane dispatch of wounded animal	Injury from live animal. Puncture wound from antler. Bruising from body mass	Deer stalkers	Approach animal with caution. A follow-up shot should be taken from a short distance. Do not attempt to manhandle an antlered animal. For procedure at deer-vehicle collisions see DVC Guide - Deer initiative. <i>Link here</i>			
Use of high seat	Falling from height	Deer stalkers, Occupiers, Public	Unload firearm and climb ladder both hands. Regular High Seat maintenance and checks should be taken. No Climb signs or Not for Public use signs can be placed on ladder.			
Use of knives and sharp objects	Stab wound or laceration	Deer stalkers	Cut away from self and be aware of others. Take care in holding, carrying, sharpening knives. Carry first aid kit.			
Rough or remote terrain	Exposure to harsh weather, injury from trips and falls	Deer stalkers	Check weather prior to outing and dress accordingly. Keep spare clothing in vehicle. Give location details to a competent person.			

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Hazard	Risk	Who can be harmed	Control measures	Likelihood	Severity	Risk level
Off-road driving	Driver may become stuck or crash vehicle	Deer stalkers	Use appropriate routes for 4x4, have a recovery plan. Don't carry uneven loads. Check route before driving.			
Lone working	Helpless when injured	Deer stalkers	Leave location details with competent person(s)			
Manual Handling	Sustaining musculoskeletal injury	Deer stalkers	Follow HSE guidelines on manual handling. Use mechanical aids for lifting deer carcasses.			
Carcass handling	Biological cross contamination and or infection	Deer stalkers	Use nitrile/latex gloves when handling deer. Follow EU food hygiene regulations. Be competent in identifying notifiable diseases.			
Ticks	Contraction of Lyme disease or other tick-borne infections	Deer stalkers	Carry purpose-made tick removal tool in first aid kit. Remove tick(s) as soon as possible. Seek medical assistance if you have flu-like symptoms or a bulls-eye rash appears around the bite.			
Working in a deer larder	Falling on slippery surfaces. Scalding from hot water. Head injury on rails hooks. Electric shock. Irritation from cleaning chemicals.	Deer stalkers, game handlers	Use appropriate slip signage and wear non-slip footwear. Wear gloves when using hot water. Install mind head signs. Awareness of electrical outputs. Turn off electrical sources when cleaning. Use appropriate gloves and eye protection when using cleaning chemicals.			
Coming into contact with public / anti hunters	Confrontation of abuse and or physical violence.	Deer stalkers, Occupiers	Approach in a mild manner, Explain what you are doing. Guide them to the public footpath. If abusive, tell them you will record on mobile and report to the police. Avoid any confrontation when carrying a firearm.			

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Annual Review Notes				
Date	Review No.	Name	Signature	Comment

Declaration					
I agree that I have read & understood Risk Assessment appropriate to my work activities and hereby agree to comply with the requirements outlined as far as possible.					
Date	Deer stalker name	Signature	Date	Deer Stalker name	Signature

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