

Toolbox Talk:

Dynamic Risk Assessment

What is a Dynamic Risk Assessment?

- Dynamic risk assessment is something we all do every day.
- It is the continuous process of identifying hazards (things which may cause harm), assessing the risks, and taking action based on that assessment.
- Every time you cross the road you unconsciously make a dynamic risk assessment!

Who Needs to Use DRA at Work?

- Your employer must plan for most risks at work by identifying hazards in advance, deciding who might be harmed and how, and managing the risk of harm by putting control measures in place.
- But in some work activities not all hazards can be identified in advance or reasonably anticipated.
- Examples of this are where you visit other people's premises, including homes, or where you are called to attend an incident such as a breakdown.

When to Use DRA

- DRA should build on existing risk assessments or procedures; it is not a substitute for them.
- DRA should be applied to areas where it helps most – situations in which risks change quickly or may not be fully known until the job is underway.

DRA Example

You arrive at an address and see this sign – what would you do?



DRA Example Discussion Points

What questions would you ask yourself as you make a dynamic risk assessment?

- Should I enter? Think about whether you are on your own and therefore more vulnerable or whether your vehicle is suitable for the terrain etc.
- Am I aware or can I see what's beyond the gate?
- Is my mobile phone operational if I need to seek assistance?
- Can I obtain more information before making a decision? E.g. is there a contact number for the premises to ask for assistance?
- Should I get in contact with my office to explaining my findings and obtain advice?
- Does I feel safe?
- Is there anything that immediately that poses risk of harm to myself?

Do You Need to Record DRAs?

- Most DRAs do not need to be recorded unless your employer asks you to.
- You should let your employer know if you have come across a hazard or a risk which can be added to the risk assessment for the activity.
- Your employer can then fully assess and manage the risks in the future.

Don't Underestimate Your 'Gut Feeling'

If you believe a work activity is hazardous, you must stop and seek assistance before continuing.

Conclusion

- Remember '*work safe, go home safe*'.
- Always check with your manager or supervisor if you have any concerns about this or other health and safety matters.

