

Safety and Health in Nonprofits: The Risk Bow Tie

Narrator 1: Safety and Health in Nonprofits. The Risk Bow Tie.

audio description: A diagram shaped like a bowtie appears on screen.

Narrator 2: The Risk Bow Tie is a powerful tool that you can use to think about safety and health in your nonprofit. Here's how you use it.

The first step is you describe your risk event. So what is the risk event that we're talking about? You then talk about what caused it to happen and what are the consequences of it happening. And then the controls are when you actually think in advance about what you would do to stop the mistake and to fix it. So you put all that stuff in place at the start and then you're ready for that risk event to happen if it unfortunately does.

I wanna give you an example. A person falls. That's our risk event. Somebody might fall, we have a facility we have to keep it clean, somebody might fall. What causes that to happen? Well, maybe a slippery floor, maybe there's no handrail, there's no sign after we've mopped, and so somebody might fall. And then what are the consequences of that happening? Well, then we really need that first aid person. We need a hospital maybe, if a hip gets broken or something like that. So this is what would cause it and what the consequences of that person falling.

So now let's move to the control area. What can you do to prevent the event from happening? Well, we could have a better system for the floor cleaning. We could, if it's appropriate, given the space, maybe it's a senior center, we might put in a handrail, we might put in signage, "slippery floor," something like that. On the corrective control, so this is what can you do in advance to prepare for the result of the event. I realize we're time warping here but you can have that first aid kit and training. You can have directions to the hospital already figured out so you don't have to dig around for that, and have that reporting system in place so that you know how to document what happened even before it happens so you're ready to go.

Narrator 1: Download the Risk Bow Tie worksheet and learn more at nonprofitwa.org/learn. This video is brought to you by Nonprofit Association of Washington. Funding and support for this project has been provided by the State of Washington, Department of Labor & Industries, Safety & Health Investment Projects.

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