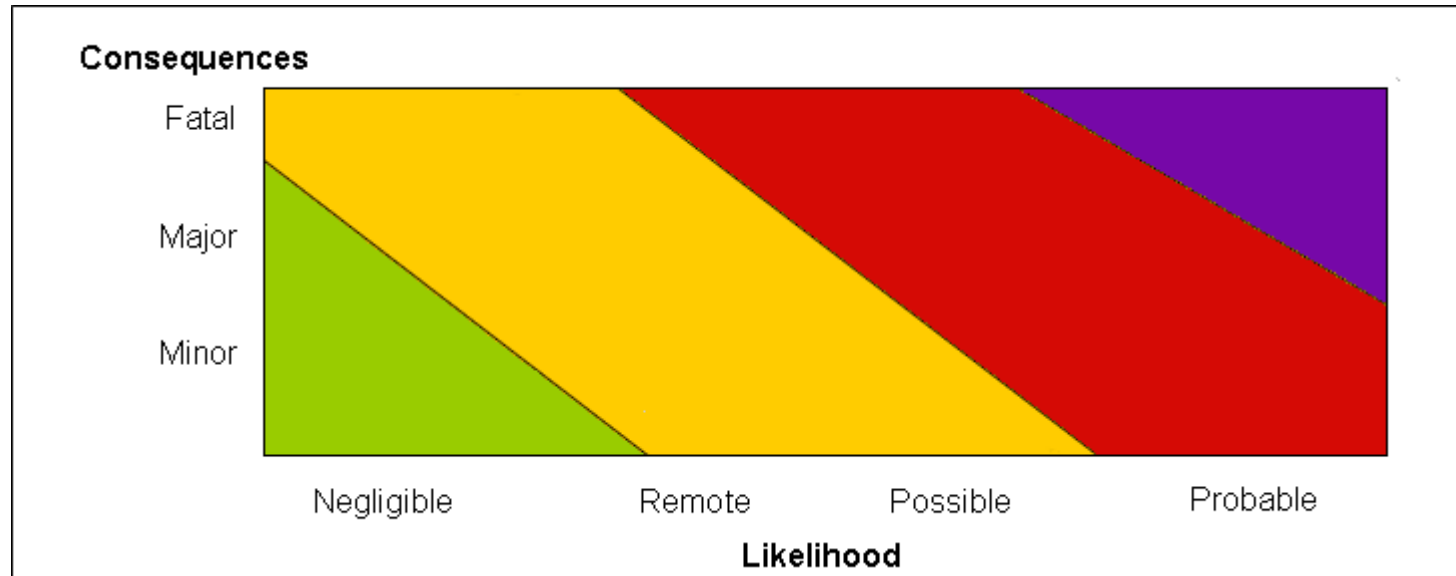


Distinguishing between real risk and trivia



The colour coding will help you judge whether precautions are proportionate across a wide range of services

RISK	Type of precautions needed	Getting the balance right
High	Extensive precautions needed	Sometimes high-risk services are essential to deliver societal benefit. Harm could still occur even when extensive precautions are taken. These risk areas need specialist attention and are beyond the remit of this tool. Information on how emergency services strike the balance between operational and health and safety duties is available. (http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/fire/duties.pdf)
Real	Robust precautions and effective management are needed	Robust precautions enable activities like these to go ahead so the benefits are fulfilled. Operating a vehicle-based refuse collection service has the potential to expose collection crews, other road users and pedestrians to a range of real risks. HSE provides detailed information about appropriate measures to control the risks. (http://www.hse.gov.uk/waste/)
Low	Precautions should be simple – and straightforward to put in place	The benefits will be lost by knee-jerk bans. Sensible precautions should not stop these activities taking place. HSE has worked with the Play Safety Forum to publish a statement advocating a balanced approach to risk arising from play activities. (http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childrens-play-july-2012.pdf)
Trivial	Consider whether any precautions are actually needed – if they look over the top they probably are.	The benefits gained from these activities are easily lost by risk averse decisions and jobsworth attitudes sensible risk management is not about creating a totally risk-free society.

Further information is available to help you to decide what to do next: 'How do I challenge questionable decisions?' (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/localgovernment/sensible-risk/challenge-decisions.htm>)