MODULE 2 · ACTIVITY SHEET

THE MATRIX IN PRACTICE

Work through the scenarios below to rate likelihood and severity, identify controls, and calculate the residual risk. Complete individually, then compare with your team.

BEFORE YOU START

Keep your **Matrix & Descriptors** reference card to hand. Work as if you are planning a real event — assume the students and context described. Remember: ratings are estimates, not absolutes.

1 Warm-up · Likelihood & Severity

For each situation, circle the likelihood and severity you'd assign. Then look up the risk level on the matrix.

SITUATION A

A student gets a blister on a half-day bush walk with a well-prepared group.

LIKELIHOOD		SEVERITY	
Rare		Insignificant	
Unlikely		Minor	
Possible		Moderate	
Likely		Major	
Almost Certain		Critical	

RISK LEVEL → _____

2 Scenario · Year-9 River Crossing, Tararua foothills

Read the scenario. Rate the *absolute* risk (no controls). Then list the controls you'd apply, and rate the *residual* risk.

SITUATION B

Your group of 18 Year-9 students is three days into a tramping programme. On day two, the route requires a knee-deep river crossing in moderate flow. Two students have limited swimming confidence. Weather is stable but heavy rain is forecast for tomorrow.

Hazard: river crossing · **Top outcome to consider:** a student loses footing and is swept downstream.

ABSOLUTE RISK (NO CONTROLS)

LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY

Absolute risk level: _____

2 Scenario continued · Controls & residual risk

Tick the controls you would apply to this situation. Add any others in the space provided.

- ☐ Check weather & river levels on the day; have a turn-back plan
- ☐ Use mutual-support crossing (linked, strongest-downstream)
- ☐ Remove pack hip-belts; buoyancy assessed
- ☐ Check footing & depth at chosen crossing point first
- ☐ Pre-brief crossing technique; practise on a dry run
- ☐ Throw-bag and trained leader positioned downstream
- ☐ Pair less-confident swimmers with a strong adult
- ☐ Carry communications & emergency numbers

OTHER CONTROLS

_____

_____

RESIDUAL RISK (WITH CONTROLS)

LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY

Residual risk level: _____

3 Reflection · The decision point

Imagine your residual risk still came out as **High**. You cannot add more controls on the day. What's your call — proceed, modify, or turn back? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

REMEMBER

If a residual risk cannot be lowered to an acceptable level, the activity shouldn't go ahead. That is the whole point of the absolute-to-residual workflow — it gives you permission to stop.