Crime Risk Assessment

Aligning CPTED & situational crime prevention with the new ISO standards for risk assessment & risk management
Why align crime prevention with risk assessment / risk management?

- Provides a structured approach
- Ensures understanding of crime context
- Facilitates defensible decisions
- Delivers reproducible results

- remember, Consistent is not the same Accurate!
The ISO Standards

http://www.iso.org
Other/previous standards

http://www.csa.ca
http://www.saiglobal.com
A few definitions

- **Crime Prevention** ...
  - The anticipation, recognition and appraisal of a *crime risk* and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it (UK Home Office)

- **Crime Risk** ...
  - An illegal or socially undesirable event, described in terms of the event and the consequences
  - e.g. the risk of injury to community members through assault in the alley
Key points about “crime risk”

- To be effectively assessed it must be clearly defined
- Risk doesn’t have to be quantified to be understood, but the level of risk must be able to be interpreted
- Context is critical to identifying and understanding risk
A few definitions

- **Risk Management** includes the application of logical and systematic methods for...
  - communicating and consulting throughout the process
  - establishing the context for identifying, analysing, evaluating and treating risks
  - monitoring & reviewing risks
  - reporting and recoding the results

ISO 31000
A few definitions

- **Risk Assessment** is part of Risk Management – it attempts to answer the following fundamental questions...
  - What can happen & why (risk identification)
  - What are the consequences (various contexts)
  - What is the probability of occurrence?
  - What factors mitigate the consequences or reduce the likelihood that a risk will be realised?

ISO 31010
Approaches to crime prevention

- Victim Focused
Approaches to crime prevention

- Victim Focused
- Offender Focused
Approaches to crime prevention

- Victim Focused
- Offender Focused
- Community Focused
Approaches to crime prevention

- Victim Focused prevention
- Offender Focused prevention
- Community Focused prevention
- Situation / Environment Focused prevention

What makes it more likely?
What are the consequences?
What makes it more likely?
What mitigates the risk?
Two (2) essential elements

- Likelihood
- Consequences

RISK
... but really 3 dimensions

Q850

RISK

Likelihood

Consequences

Perceptions

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM
Establish Context

Identify Risks

Analyse Risks

Evaluate Risks

Assess Risks

Treat Risks

Communicate & Consult

Monitor & Review

ISO 31000
Canadian Q850 Risk Management Decision-Making Process

- Decision Point
- Decision Point
- Decision Point
- Decision Point
Alignment with CPTED & Situational Crime Prevention

- Need to achieve specific outcomes...
  - e.g.
    - improved quality of life,
    - enhanced use of space,
    - lower crime risk, etc.

- Need to understand factors that run contrary to required outcomes

- Need to identify & implement appropriate strategies
Alignment with CPTED & Situational Crime Prevention

- You need to be able to describe risks accurately in order to analyse / assess... but,
- You don’t need to analyse / assess every possible risk
- Useful to draw up a matrix with key stakeholder issues / possible risk events associated with those issues / consequence considerations
CPTED & other CP theories...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Crime/Site Profile</th>
<th>Perceived Reward</th>
<th>Guardianship/Territoriality</th>
<th>Success Expectance</th>
<th>Immediate Environment</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
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# Describing Risk

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<tr>
<th>Likelihood</th>
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ISO 31010 ALARP Diagram

ALARP = as low as reasonably practicable
Q850 Risk Evaluation

- Estimate and integrate benefits and costs
- Assess stakeholder acceptance of risk

**ALARA** = as low as reasonably achievable

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(A) Intolerable region. Risk cannot be justified on any grounds.

(B) As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA)*. Risk is acceptable only if a compensating benefit is available.

- Tolerable only if risk reduction is impractical or if its costs are grossly disproportionate to the benefits gained.
- Tolerable if cost of reduction would exceed benefits gained.

(C) Broadly acceptable region. No need for detailed work to demonstrate ALARA.

Diminishing risk

Negligible risk.
Feasibility test for strategies

- Is the strategy...
  - Philosophically compatible
  - Operationally appropriate
  - Fiscally responsible
The 100% rule...

Just because a strategy isn’t 100% effective, it doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be used

http://www.hfg-offenbach.de
Aligning CPTED with structured risk management...

- Allows you to do desk-top validation of effectiveness
  - Likelihood before = \( x \)
  - Range of Consequences before = \( a, b, c \)
  - Risk level before = \( y \)
  - ... apply strategy ... 
  - Likelihood after = \( n \)
  - Range of Consequences after = \( a, b, c \)
  - Risk level after = \( z \)
The key to assessment is data

... on what are you basing your assessments?
Models in use...

NSW Safer by Design

Model

Risk = Site Opportunity x Area Context

Area Context = Consequences x Crime Expectation
# Models in use...

## Attractiveness vs. Opportunity

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## Likelihood vs. Base Crime Weighting

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...but don’t forget about perceptions

- Stakeholder perceptions are influenced by:-
  - Degree of personal control over risk event
  - Potential catastrophic consequences
  - Level of “dread” regarding consequences
  - (Any) Benefits associated with risk
  - Degree to which exposure is voluntary
  - Degree of familiarity with risk event

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Conclusions

- ISO 31000 provides a structured / defensible approach
- ISO 31010 includes a wide range of risk assessment tools & techniques
- Alignment with ISO standards delivers accuracy & reliability
- Alignment with ISO standards enhances credibility of assessments
just remember...

if you lock the barn after the horse has bolted...

all you will be protecting is horse shoes

... understand your crime risks in the true sense of the term and you will reap the benefits