






Methodology

Determining Risk Levels
















We assess risk in every report we publish using Risk Levels.

This methodology is based on best practices from internationally recognised risk management procedures and consists of five Risk Levels: Low, Moderate, Medium, High and Extreme. In general, each Risk Level has the following characteristics.

	Safety and Security	Travel Disruptions
 Extreme	Extremely dangerous and presents unpredictable security risks	Chaotic; travel impossible
 High	Can be dangerous and may present unexpected security risks	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for severe or widespread disruptions
 Medium	Not completely safe, but typically presents predictable security risks	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions
 Moderate	Generally safe, with some predictable security risks	Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays
 Low	Safe, with few security risks	Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays

When assessing risk, our analysts take into consideration the actual or potential impact of the threat or hazard they are reporting as well as the likelihood of that threat or hazard taking place, if it has not already.

Therefore, a threat that could have a 'catastrophic' impact – such as a potential mass casualty attack – would only be considered a Moderate Risk if judged as 'unlikely' to take place.

	Impact				
Likelihood	Negligible	Minor	Major	Severe	Catastrophic
Certain					
Likely					
Possible					
Unlikely					

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Our analysts will first assess the impact of an event or incident, or in the case of a planned or forecast event, the potential impact.

Analysts will consider the actual or potential impact on travel (mobility), the physical safety of people and, to a lesser extent, damage to infrastructure and assets.

	Travel	Personnel	Assets
Catastrophic	Complete disruption affecting all modes of transport; large areas impassable	Mass casualties; many deaths and severe injuries	Total loss
Severe	Widespread disruptions, cancellations and route closures in multiple modes of transport; some areas impassable	Severe injuries and some fatalities	Significant loss
Major	Significant disruptions and cancellations, limited in geographic area and modes of transport; major delays (>2 hours)	Serious but non-life-threatening injuries; high levels of stress	Major damage and/or some loss
Minor	Minor disruptions; delays (~2 hours), some cancellations	Minor injuries possible; low levels of stress	Minor damage
Negligible	No disruptions or minor delays (<1 hour)	No injuries	No damage

In the case of an incident or event that has already taken place, the likelihood of the event will be 'certain'.

For all other planned and forecasted events or for general assessments of risk, our analysts will determine the likelihood that the risk or hazard manifests from this table.

	Probability	% Guidelines	Expected frequency
Certain	Expected	Over 90%	Near daily or weekly
Likely	High	60 – 90%	Between weeks or months
Possible	Reasonable	30 – 60%	Between months or years
Unlikely	Unrealistic/Doubtful	Less than 30%	Between years or decades

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