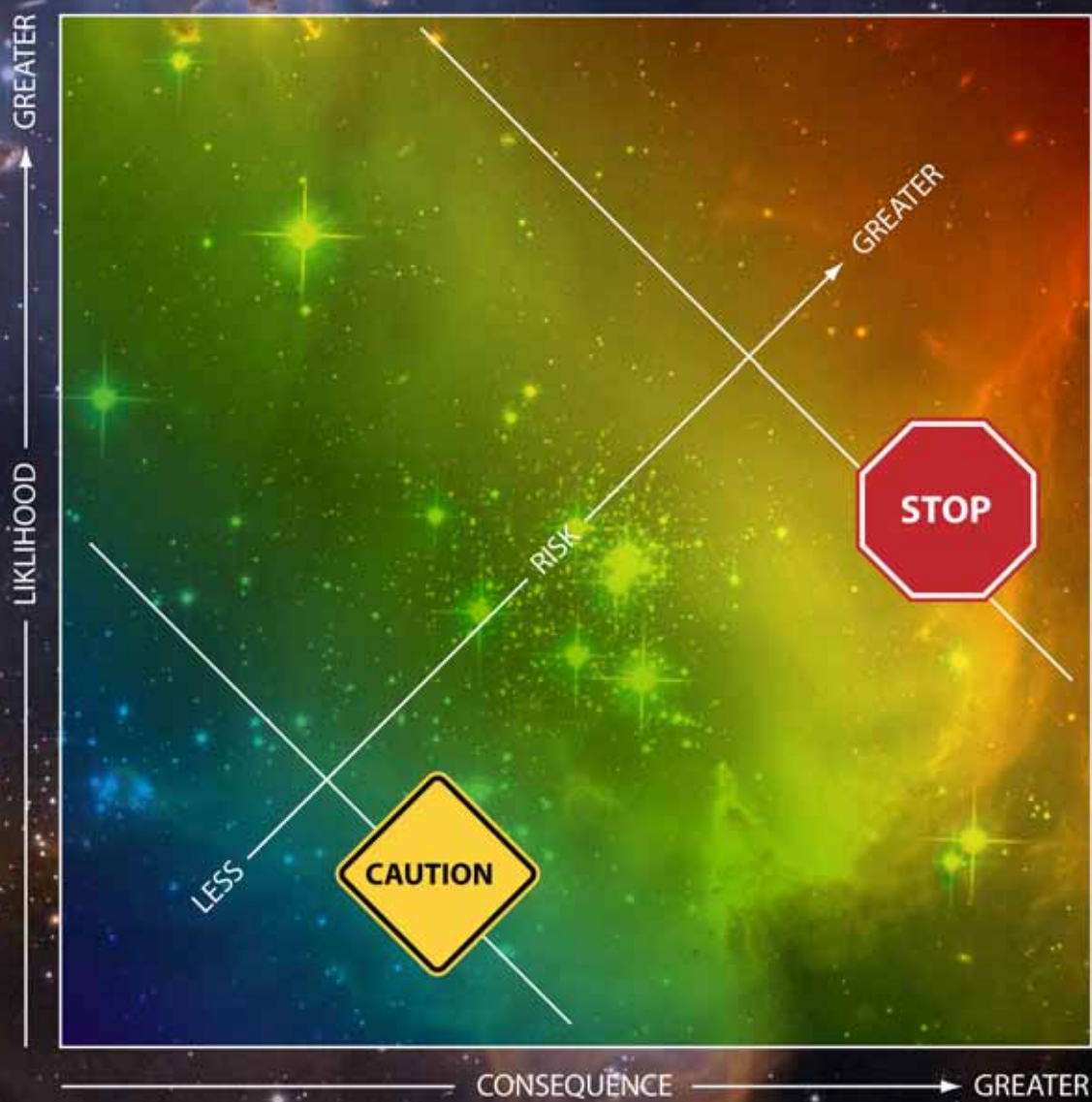


ROADSIGNS IN RISK SPACE



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Abstract

An answer to the question, "How safe is safe enough?" is an important starting point for the practice of risk management. The recent trend toward the use of Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) in aviation safety, environmental safety, medical safety, and many others has emphasized the need for answers to this question.

To fulfill this need, the Risk-Based Explosives Safety Criteria Team (RBESCT), under sponsorship of the U.S. DoD Explosives Safety Board (DDESB), has developed a comprehensive set of standards to be used in a risk management context. These standards address individual protection from long-term (annualized) risk, and group protection from both long term and peak (event) risks. A group of twenty-four numerical criteria have been developed and are in the process of review at this time.

The 24 criteria are grouped into two levels of risk separated by the acceptability level of the risk. The higher level of risk is the level where risk is normally considered unacceptable. The lower level of risk is the level at which safety professionals should become concerned and employ risk reductions or mitigations. To distinguish between these two levels of risk, we use the commonly recognized stop sign for the higher level and the caution sign for the lower level.



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