Module 5
Step 4: Justify and Prioritize Hazards

Healthy Housing Solutions Inc.

Key Steps

1. Start with the resident

2. Visual (qualitative) identification of hazards

Observe

Interpret

Question

3. Support visual identification with quantitative measurement (if necessary)

4. Justify and prioritize hazards

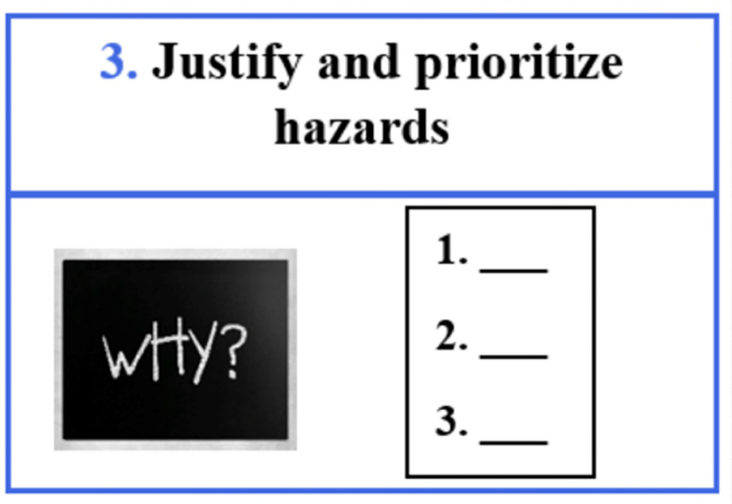
1. ___
2. ___
3. ___

5. Identify interventions to address hazards

6. Communicate with the resident

Key Steps

- Justifying why a hazard IS a hazard
- Reviewing prioritization
- Reviewing risk assessment
- Case study



Justification

JUSTIFICATION

Why is this a hazard?

Kitchen - Appliances

Why is this a hazard?

Hazard: gas stove with no exhaust fan

Basement- Walls and Floor Juncture

Why is this a hazard?

Hazard: moisture in basement

Living Room – Window

Why is this a hazard?

Hazard: deteriorated lead-based paint

Prioritization

Prioritizing – Acute vs. Chronic

Acute: hazards that require immediate attention because they are an immediate threat to health or life.

Chronic – hazards which do not pose an immediate risk to health or life but do promote allergies, asthma, lead poisoning, pesticide exposure, or other chronic health conditions.

Other Prioritization factors:

Identify what priority, if any, you would place on the issues or hazards observed:

- Prioritize acute over chronic?
- Lowest cost first?
- Easiest to Address First?
- Biggest health benefit, if known
- Fastest Health Benefit, if obvious

For more discussion see, “Healthy Habitats”, Carl Grimes, HHS, CIEC, © 2002, Building Press.

A Review of Risk Assessment

Assessments should:

- Identify the nature and extent of individual hazards: **Risk Assessment**
- Determine the relative risk of different hazards: **Risk Analysis**
- Evaluate the interactions and synergisms between individual hazards: **Risk Characterization**

Source: HUD Healthy Homes Issues: Residential Assessments, March 2006

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment is a systematic method of collecting and interpreting scientific information relating environmental hazards to human health.

Risk Assessment is a process of quantifying the likelihood of harmful effects from a hazard.

Risk assessment is NOT making medical statements or connections.

Risk Assessment in the Federal Government: Managing the Process", National Research Council, © 1983

Home Assessments are Risk Assessments

Risk Assessment Steps*

- Hazard Identification
- Hazard Evaluation
- Dose-response assessment
- Exposure Assessment
- Risk Characterization

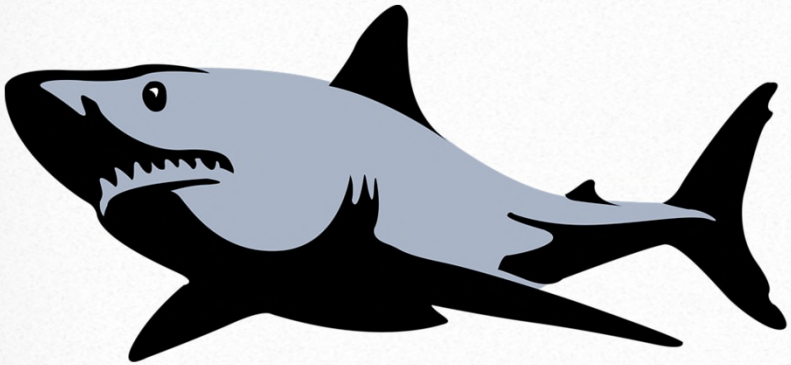
**National Research Council, 1983*

EXPOSURE AS A FACTOR IN PRIORITIZATION

Risk = hazard x exposure

EXPOSURE AS A FACTOR IN PRIORITIZATION

Which animal is most likely to kill you?



THE ORLOV FAMILY CASE STUDY (PART 3)

- In small groups, review the pictures of the Orlov's family's house.
- Review the case study details if necessary
- Fill out the form for Orlov Case study part 3.
- Small groups report back to class.