

Open Morris Health and Safety Advice

Agreed by Officers: 21 September 2017

Reviewed: [date]

Amended: [date]

Open Morris and Health and Safety legislation

Open Morris (OM) is not an employer, so it has no legal duty under Health and Safety legislation to publish a health and safety policy.

Nonetheless, OM encourages members to always act in a way that any reasonable person would appreciate is safe.

To do so, members will need to identify the hazards, assess the risk of anyone being harmed, then control and manage the situation in a responsible way.

Therefore :

Open Morris advises all members to take reasonable care not to cause injury to each other or to members of the public when performing or practising.

Open Morris advises any members who are organising or teaching at an event

- **to consider risks in terms of space constraints, proximity of audience, hazards from traffic, etc; and**
- **to ensure that all dancers are aware of their own limitations.**

Risk Assessment

Before an event, a venue manager may ask an OM member to provide a risk assessment for that particular event, to cover such matters as marshalling, traffic risk, dancers' safety and public safety.

Such a request should not be treated as an exercise in simply ticking boxes.

Instead, a carefully prepared Risk Assessment can be used to encourage the venue manager to address the dancers' needs, from keeping crowds in check right down to basic things like access to drinking water.

The following is a straightforward approach to risk assessment :

- Identify the potential hazards (a hazard is something with the potential to cause harm).
- Evaluate the risk that each hazard will lead to injury or damage (i.e. who might be harmed and how).
- Identify and take any action needed to control and manage significant risks in a responsible way.
- Make a record of the above, to inform anyone who might need it.

Information and Guidance on Health and Safety

More information can be found on the Health and Safety Executive website at

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/information-advice.htm>

In particular, the Health and Safety Executive offers guidance on 'Sensible risk management' at

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/principles.htm>