

Conducting a property level risk assessment

- Risk may be broadly defined as the product of “likelihood” and “consequences” of a hazard manifesting as an adverse event.
- Biosecurity risk assessment starts by collecting as much relevant premises-level information as possible.
- The risk assessment process may be summarized to comprise of three key steps:
 - **Risk assessment:** evaluation of the likelihood and consequences of a hazard occurring.
 - **Risk mitigation or management:** consideration of measures available to treat the risk.
 - **Risk communication:** engagement with the premises owner / occupier, professional colleagues or assistants, Biosecurity Queensland personnel, or control center personnel during a response, in relation to the identified risks and risk management options.
- Risks may be classified according to the type of hazard that they pose. Categories could include the following:
 - Biosecurity risks;
 - Workplace health and safety risks;
 - Animal welfare risks;
 - Reputational risks (to yourself, your practice, the premises owner/occupier, industry etc.);
 - Environmental risks;
 - Legal risks, etc.

Biosecurity risk assessment

- Before traveling to a premises, contact the owner/occupier to obtain as detailed a history and as much epidemiological information as possible.
- Detailed history collection is necessary in order to refine your index of suspicion for FMD or other significant emergency animal diseases (EADs), to clarify what to expect to find on the premises, while also allowing you to anticipate what equipment and consumables may be required to further assess the situation.



- Before entering the premises, a biosecurity risk assessment should be conducted to inform selection of the most appropriate location for setting up a personal decontamination site. Consider:
 - What diseases, biological or chemical hazards may be present?
 - What is the likelihood of contracting and/or spreading a disease, and what may be the consequences should this occur?
 - What level of personal protective equipment (PPE) can appropriately protect me and my colleagues from the risk of exposure and infection?
- Ensure you have all the necessary equipment to undertake the required task.
- Where a high index of suspicion exists for infectious agents where vehicles may act as fomites, it is preferable not to take your vehicle on to the premises, as this negates the need for vehicle decontamination.
- Consider the production system and location of the premises in relation to surrounding properties and susceptible animals (the population-at-risk). For example, in the case of FMD:
 - Does the property contain pigs, or are there any piggeries in the surrounding area?
 - Remember pigs can amplify FMD virus and generate infectious aerosols which could spread virus over considerable distances under the right environmental conditions.
 - How large is the premises in terms of head of stock, or does it serve as a transit hub where large numbers of animals congregate and disperse through human-assisted movement, e.g. sale yards, or live animal markets?
 - Larger premises and transit hubs are at increased risk of introduction, establishment and spread of diseases.
 - Do contiguous or neighbouring properties contain susceptible animals, and if so, what species and in what numbers?
 - Susceptible animals on contiguous or neighbouring properties may be at higher risk of direct or indirect spread of FMD.