

# Hazard Risk Analysis

## Riots

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This section introduces riots.

#### Definition

A riot is a violent public disorder, specifically a disturbance of the public peace by a group of persons with either a common or random intent to destroy property, assault persons or otherwise disturb the peace. Riots can be motivated for political reasons, or may be the result of escalating events like sporting or gaming events.

#### Discussion

When riots and looting occur, there is often a significant loss of property to businesses, infrastructure, or people's homes. The publicity that riots generate also serves to scare many community members or others in the area, for fear of a repeat event. This adds to the economic losses of the impacted area.

Often of equal or greater concern are the social and political impacts. When riots develop, there is a feeling that things are generally out of control; and this feeling of vulnerability and sense of helplessness adds to impact of the riot itself. The media tend to give a high priority to such events. Band leaders, politicians, and other authority figures quickly become accountable for the actions that were or were not taken to control the riot and the subsequent aftermath.

#### It Happened Here...

On March 17, 2012, a drunken crowd near Fanshawe College in London, Ontario flipped over a news van and set it on fire prompting a major display of force by police officers. The rioters, many of whom kitted out in festive green outfits for St Patrick's day, did whatever they could to keep the fire alive. Many threw bottles of alcohol into the burning flames which spurred the mini explosions on. Some risk takers threw in mattresses and bedframes to go with it. Others tore apart nearby picket fences.

On June 15, 2011, the 2011 Vancouver Stanley Cup riot happened immediately after the conclusion of the Boston Bruins' win over the Vancouver Canucks in game seven of the Stanley Cup Finals, which won the Stanley Cup for Boston. At least 140 people were reported as injured during the incident, one critically; at least four people were stabbed, nine police officers were

injured, and 101 people were arrested that night. As of July 2013, police have recommended 1,204 criminal charges against 352 suspected rioters.”

On June 25, 2010, more than 400 people were arrested as violence broke out after thousands of anti-G20 protesters marched through downtown Toronto on Saturday, prompting police to use tear gas in the city for the first time. Four police vehicles were set ablaze, store and bank windows were smashed and much of the area was put under security lockdowns.

Just after midnight on 7th August, 2008, vandals destroyed nine of the world-famous "Tournament of Champions" sandcastles at Harrison Lake near the village of Harrison Hot Springs, BC. Each one was created by a team of previous world champions who were flown in by the Harrison Hot Spring Sand Sculpture Society to build them in May 2008. Six of the vandalized sculptures had to be taken down because there was too much damage and each one of the sculptures costs \$15,000.

Following the Sand Castle Festival weekend in 1997, in Parksville, BC, store windows were smashed by a crowd of 600 to 1,000 young people - more than 100 arrests were made. The Sand Castle Festival was subsequently cancelled.

On July 28, 1991 Kelowna, British Columbia resembled a war zone early Sunday as smoke filled the air in the early morning after police fired canisters of gas at a 1,000-person crowd rampaging through two concessions and a tourist information building. Thirty-seven windows on Main Street were smashed and there were reports of looting from some businesses, including a government liquor store, which had almost its entire front window smashed.

On July 11, 1990 members of the militant Mohawk Warrior’s Society set up roadblocks over land claim issues near the Kahnawake Reserve, Oka, Quebec (population 1500). The military was called in to deal with it and 10,000 people in the surrounding were evacuated. The standoff last 78 days and one officer died.

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## Riots

<b>Hazard Rating</b>				High Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
				<b>FACTORS</b>			
Yes	No	Need More Info	Not Applicable				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riots can break out after a huge sports victory or loss. Does your community have a stadium, arena, or other sports venue where competitive games occur?			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riots can occur during or after large gatherings such as concerts, festivals, rallies, and other community celebrations. Does your community host large gatherings?			

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If a riot has occurred in a community previously, the factors that triggered the riot may still exist, and puts the community at risk for a future riot. Has your community experienced riots in the past?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heated or controversial elections can trigger a riot. Does your community have a history of heated and/or controversial elections?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Celebratory riots are often composed of young people. Does your community host events where there are large numbers of young people in attendance?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riots are often associated with high levels of alcohol consumption by participants. Does your community host events where large amounts of alcohol are consumed (by lots of individuals)?

## References

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