

# Hazard Risk Analysis

## *Accidents*

Airplane Crashes  
Marine Accidents  
Motor Vehicle Crashes  
Train Derailments

### Accidents

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There are four main types of accidents that will be discussed: airplane crashes, marine accidents, motor vehicle crashes, and rail (train) derailments. There are numerous accidents that happen in communities all the time – and many of them are tragic. But in this case, we are examining accidents that would be considered a big disaster for your community. In most small communities, there may not be ambulances or a nearby hospital that can take seriously injured patients, so even a small crash with more than one casualty can be considered a disaster.

Resources are available to help you complete this analysis in [Risk Analysis Resources section](#).

### Airplane Crashes

#### Definition

An airplane crash is considered to be an accident involving one or more airplanes. While most airplane crashes occur on or near an airport, airplane crashes can occur anywhere.

#### Discussion

Airplane accidents can be caused by one or more “stress factors.” Stress factors are typically caused by one or more of the following issues: physical flying, such as the noise, glare and pressure changes; anxiety due to not enough training, night flying and unfamiliar airports; personal reasons such as hunger, fatigue and worry; and emergency situations such as control malfunction, metal fatigue and engine fire

Most air accidents happen at or near airports, but people living in remote communities in Canada tend to use small planes to fly from one location to another, and these planes could go down virtually anywhere in Canada. From a disaster perspective, it is accidents involving large passenger planes, or planes landing in residential, or urbanized areas that are a concern.

## It Happened Here...

On June 28, 2021, a small plane crashed into a residential neighbourhood in Mill Bay, B.C. The pilot and passenger were seriously injured.

On March 5, 2021, a helicopter crashed on Bowen Island in BC and both pilots were able to walk away with minor injuries.

On 5 July 2018, a privately operated Piper PA-28-140 the Sechelt Aerodrome, British Columbia, and flew into trees on the far side of the ravine. The pilot was fatally injured and the three passengers received minor injuries.

On 4 September 2016, a private Bell 206B helicopter departed Charlo, New Brunswick, and collided with power lines near Flatlands, New Brunswick, causing substantial damage, and fell into the Restigouche River. The pilot and the front passenger were fatally injured. The rear-seat passenger survived the accident.

On 10 November 2013, Bearskin Lake Air Service LP flight 311 a Fairchild SA227-AC Metro III reported that they were 5 miles from the Red Lake Airport on final approach for Runway 26 when the aircraft struck trees and power lines, and crashed just south of the airfield adjacent to Ontario Highway 125. Two passengers were able to evacuate the aircraft; however, the 2 pilots and remaining 3 passengers sustained fatal injuries.

On January 10, 2012, a plane crash killed 4 people at North Spirit Lake First Nation in northwestern Ontario.

On October 27, 2011, a series of pilot errors and an improperly secured engine oil cap caused a plane crash that killed two pilots near Vancouver International Airport. Seven passengers survived the crash but suffered injuries including burns, spinal fractures and one mild brain injury. Landing on a busy road, the plane also hit two passengers in a car and they were treated at the scene of the crash.

On May 28, 2010 the wreckage of a twin-engine Piper Navajo was discovered near Cartwright, Newfoundland (population 629) shortly after taking off from Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The pilot and passenger both succumbed to their injuries.

On July 9 2009, two crew members died with their Piper Chieftain cargo plane ran into wake turbulence from an Airbus 31 it was following as it approached YVR in Richmond, B.C. to land and crashed into a warehouse in Richmond.

On October 19, 2007, the pilot died and two people were injured, one seriously, after a small aircraft that took off from Vancouver International Airport in the afternoon crashed into the 9th floor of an apartment building on a busy street in Richmond, B.C.

On September 2, 1998 Swissair flight 111 crashed into the waters of Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia (population 46) killing all 229 passengers and crew onboard.

On July 8, 1965, a CP Air DC6B exploded and crashed at Dog Creek (population 109), just west of 100-Mile House, BC killing 52 persons on board.

Note that even though your community does not meet any of the risk indicators, it is always possible for a plane to go off course and crash on, or near, your community.

| Hazard Rating            |                          |                          |                          | High Risk   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Low Risk | <input type="checkbox"/> | Need More Info | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Yes                      | No                       | Need More Info           | Not Applicable           | FACTORS   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Communities located in flight paths are at greater risk. Is your community located in a flight path?  |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | **Most airplane accidents occur at or near airports during landing or take-off. Communities near airports are at greater risk. Is your community located near an airport?   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The larger the airplane the less likely it is to crash. This means places located near small airplane routes are at greater risk. Is your community located on/near a small aircraft route?   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Airplane crashes are more likely to happen in mountainous regions. Is your community located in a mountainous region?   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Airplane crashes are more likely to happen in areas that experience rapidly changing weather that creates poor visibility. Does your community often experience rapidly changing weather (Refer to the section on Atmospheric Hazards if required)?   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pilots in training are more likely to crash than trained professionals. Communities located near airplane training facilities are at risk. Is your community located near an airplane training facility? The acrobatic air shows also increase crash risk. Do air shows happen in or near your community? |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have there been previous airplane crashes in your community in the past?  |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |

## Marine Accidents

### Definition

Marine accidents are shipping accidents that threaten human life, property, and natural resources. Ship collisions, ship fires, and hazardous material spills are typical of marine accidents. Although it's not usually considered, nuclear submarine accidents can also pose risks to a coastal community. .

### Discussion

There are several types of weather and geographical conditions, such as high winds, rough seas, poor visibility, and the location of shoals, sandbars, or reefs, that create hazardous situations for ships and boats. With this in mind, the risk factors for marine navigation include winds, visibility, currents, water depths, passage widths, course changes, and shipping density (such as crowding of boats on the water). In addition to risk indicators, the type of boat or ship (a fishing boat, passenger vessel, pleasure craft, military vessel, commercial/industrial cargo vessel) plays a role in how big a potential disaster might be.

### It Happened Here...

On 10 February 2021, the tug *Ingenika*, with three people on board and towing the loaded barge *Miller 204* in the Gardner Canal, BC, sank around 16 nautical miles east of Gribbell Island. A search-and-rescue mission rescued one crew member and recovered the bodies of the other two crew members.

On 8 April 2019, an unnamed and unregistered oyster boat, with 3 people on board, capsized 0.5 nautical miles west of Bayfield, Nova Scotia. Two crew members lost their lives and one crew member survived. Local residents, first responders and an RCMP helicopter assisted in rescuing the crew.

On 25 October 2015, the *Leviathan II* was on a whale-watching excursion in the Plover Reefs area of Clayoquot Sound, with 27 people on board. As the vessel was leaving the area, a large wave approached the vessel from the starboard quarter and the wave struck the vessel and the vessel broached and rapidly capsized. The subsequent rescue operation recovered 21 survivors, which included 18 passengers and 3 crewmembers. There were six fatalities.

On March 22, 2006 around 12:25am the *Queen of the North* hit Gill Island around 15km from Hartley Bay, British Columbia (population 200) and began to sink into Wright Sound. It took the ship 1 hour and 15 minutes to fully submerge. Two passengers were never located, but 99 passengers and crew made it off the boat and to safety.

On November 1, 2006 just after 8 am, the small fishing vessel *Cape Fin-Tose* capsized and began to sink off the coast of Kings Point, Newfoundland (population 775). All four people on board survived.

If you don't have any lakes, rivers or oceans that boats or ships can navigate then you can safely state that this is "Not applicable."

| Hazard Rating            |                          | High Risk                | <input type="checkbox"/> | Low Risk   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Need More Info | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Yes                      | No                       | Need More Info           | Not Applicable           | FACTORS  |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bad visibility from weather increases the risk of marine accidents. Does your community often experience bad visibility, such as fog or storms (Refer to the section on Fog and Windstorms)?   |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | High winds and rough seas increase the risk of marine accidents. Does your community often experience high winds or rough seas?  |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Collisions occur more frequently with larger ships because they are harder to maneuver. Does your community experience a lot of large ship (i.e., tankers) traffic?  |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ports have increased marine accident rates. Is your community located near a port?   |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ships that frequently call at port, such as passenger vessels or ferries, have the highest likelihood of having an accident. Is your community located on or near a passenger vessel port?   |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Accidents increase with the age of a ship. Are most of the boats near your community considered old, or older models?  |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grounding – when a ship runs aground – is a major cause of marine accidents. Does your community have a marine route that is bordered by shallow waters, reefs and/or sandbars?  |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have marine accidents occurred in your community in the past?  |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Adjacent shorelines and bays may have areas that can be difficult to navigate in stormy weather or are known as areas of high risk to ships as a result of underwater hazards. Are Traditional Knowledge holders able to identify these kinds of areas in and around your community? |                          |                |                          |                |                          |

## Motor Vehicle Crashes

### Definition

Motor vehicle crashes occur whenever a motor vehicle (such as a truck, car, bus, farm vehicle, or any other motor-powered vehicle) collides with another motor vehicle, train or other obstruction; One motor vehicle may also lose control and incur damage. Numerous motor vehicle accidents occur every day in Canada. From the perspective of a disaster, motor vehicle accidents become a concern when they involve large numbers of passengers.

### Discussion

Motor vehicle accidents tend to be caused by several different factors. An accident with many fatalities or injuries happens when the driver loses control of a motor vehicle and then crashes

into buildings or groups of people. Another situation is where poor driving conditions (usually from bad weather) lead to bus accidents or multiple vehicle collisions, which can lead to many fatalities and have to involve many local response agencies. There will also be situations of driver error which can cause multiple casualties.

### It Happened Here...

On July 19, 2020, A sightseeing bus carrying 27 passengers overturned en route to the glacier near the Columbia Icefield in Alberta's Jasper National Park, killing three people and critically injured passengers were being transported from the crash site to various Alberta hospitals on helicopter ambulances.

On September 13, 2019, two University of Victoria students died after a chartered bus carrying 45 UVic students and two teaching assistants slid off the side of the road and down an incline, landing on its roof. The bus was on its way to the remote Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on Vancouver Island's West Coast for a school field trip. B.C. Emergency Health Services said 17 people were taken to hospital after the crash: two in critical condition, one in serious condition, and 14 others in stable condition. Around 30 more people were transported from the crash scene.

On April 06, 2018, near Armley, Saskatchewan, a northbound coach bus carrying the Humboldt Broncos junior hockey team struck a westbound semi-trailer truck that failed to yield at a flashing stop sign at the intersection of Highways 35 and 335. Sixteen people were killed and thirteen were injured.

On February 2, 2004 the Alaska Highway was closed almost a week, closing northern B.C.'s main link to the rest of the province, after a southbound three-axle propane truck crossed the highway's centre line and collided with a northbound tractor trailer. The propane truck took almost a week to burn off its load of an estimated 17,000 gallons of liquid propane. The drivers of the trucks were able to escape without injury, but the fire quickly spread across the entire width of the highway and melted the road pavement.

On October 13, 1997 a bus descending a steep hill near Saint-Joseph-de-la-Rive, Quebec (population 222) suffered brake failure. As a result it missed a curve and plunged into a stony ravine. 43 people died and 5 were injured.

| Hazard Rating            |                          |                          |                          | High Risk  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Low Risk | <input type="checkbox"/> | Need More Info | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Yes                      | No                       | Need More Need           | Not Applicable           | FACTORS  |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As road grade increases (the steepness of the road) so do accidents. This can happen when a vehicle is travelling uphill because more people try to pass slower vehicles. There may be more accidents when a vehicle travels downhill because drivers have increased speeds, which decrease the time to react to situations. Do the roads in and around your community often go up and downhill? |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Busier stretches of road tend to have higher accident rates. Does your community regularly experience what you would consider to be a high volume of vehicles on its roadways?   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The more lanes on a roadway the higher the accident rate. Does your community have multiple lane highway/roadways either in your community or nearby?  |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Narrow shoulders decrease the space drivers have to correct errors and increase the rate of accidents. Does your community have roadways with narrow shoulders (1.5 metres or less?)   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Highways and freeways tend to have multiple lanes, high speeds, and high traffic volumes, all factors that increase accident rates. Does your community have a highway/freeway through and/or near it?   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bad weather (snow storms, rain storms, fog) reduces visibility and increases the risk of accidents. Does your community frequently experience bad weather (Refer to the appropriate Atmospheric Hazards sections)?   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |

## Train Derailments

### Definition

Rail accidents happen when a train derails (goes off the tracks) or collides with another train, motor vehicle, or obstruction on the rail tracks. If a train is carrying fuel, chemicals, or other hazardous materials and has an accident, it can create a dangerous situation for nearby communities. A rail accident can also take place on a rapid transit system, such as the ALRT in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia or the GO trains in Metro Toronto.

### Discussion

Many accidents are as the result of colliding with another train already on the tracks. Vandalism has also caused train wrecks, as has driver error. Weather conditions, often snow, account for a number of train accidents every year. Motor vehicles often are involved in collisions with trains.

### It Happened Here...

On 25 May 2020, a Canadian Pacific Railway grain train consisting of 222 loaded cars was proceeding eastward on the Ignace Subdivision in Ontario at 45 mph when it experienced an unintended emergency brake application at Mile 12.8. Subsequent examination by the train's crew determined that grain cars 26 to 83 (57 cars in total) had derailed. No injuries were reported and no dangerous goods were involved.

On 29 October 2015, a cut of empty intermodal cars in the possession of Canadian Pacific Railway and stored near the Hochelaga Yard in Montréal, Quebec, ran uncontrolled, resulting in the derailment. The cars and railway track sustained damage. One car struck the wall of a property adjacent to the railway right-of-way. The occupants of 7 homes were evacuated. No dangerous goods were involved, and there were no injuries.

On July 6, 2013, at 01:15 EDT, an unattended 74-car freight train carrying crude oil ran away and derailed, resulting in the fire and explosion of multiple tank cars in the town of Lac-Mégantic, located in the Eastern Townships of the Canadian province of Quebec. Forty-two people were confirmed dead, with five more missing and presumed dead. More than 30 buildings in the town's centre, roughly half of the downtown area, were destroyed and all but three of the thirty-nine remaining downtown buildings are to be demolished due to petroleum contamination of the town. Initial newspaper reports described a 1-kilometre (0.62 mi) blast radius.

On September 26, 2010 Seven Persons, Alberta (population 239) were evacuated as fire crews battled the blaze all 2010 a semi-trailer and Canadian Pacific Railway train collided around 1 pm near Pense, Saskatchewan (population 507). There were no injuries but both the trailer on the truck and engine of the train were severely damaged.

On December 4, 2002, at 01:35 EST, 42 cars of an 80 car Canadian Pacific Railway freight train left the tracks. The molten sulphur on board ignited; causing a chemical fire. Luckily, there were no injuries.

If your community does not have any rail lines running through, or close to, your community you can safely state that this is "Not Applicable."



| Hazard Rating            |                          |                          |                          | High Risk  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Low Risk | <input type="checkbox"/> | Need More Info | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not Applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Yes                      | No                       | Need More Info           | Not Applicable           | FACTORS  |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your community have rail lines running through and/or near it?  |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Traffic crossings (when roads intersect train tracks) increase the risk of rail accidents. Does traffic cross the rail line in and/or near your community?   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avalanche and steep mountainous areas increase the risk of rail accidents. Is your community located in and/or near steep mountainous and/or avalanche areas?  |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rail lines that cross fault lines and/or loose soil (at risk of liquefaction) are at risk from earthquakes. Is your community located on and/or near a fault line and/or soil at risk to liquefaction (Refer to the section on Earthquakes)? |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have there been train derailments in your community in the past?   |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rail lines close to river banks or sea shores may be damaged by ice-jam or other river flooding or sea surges or storms. Is the rail line in your community close to river banks or sea shores?  |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rail lines may go through areas that have experienced hazardous conditions in the past. Are Traditional Knowledge holders able to identify these kinds of areas in and around your community close to rail lines?                            |                          |          |                          |                |                          |                |                          |

## Risk Analysis Resources

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### Air Crashes

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada lists all reported [airplane crashes](#) that have occurred.

Keywords: [Canada aviation investigation reports](#)

### Marine Accidents

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada lists all reported [boating or marine accidents](#) that have occurred.

Keywords: [Canada marine investigation report](#)

### Rail Derailments

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada lists all reported [train derailments](#) that have occurred.

Keywords: [Canada rail investigation report](#)

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