# Risk Assessment 101

 what are we afraid of?
 why?
 what can we and what should we do about it?

> Mike Jayjock Rohm and Haas Company

## There are Different Types of Risk

#### • Tom Cruise in "Risky Business"

- Dial Soap Advertisement: "Don't you use no deodorant?"
- Insurance "Your in good hands with Allstate."

Antacid "My doctor said Mylanta"
 "I've fallen and I can not get up!"
 "Friends don't let friends use Windows 3.1"

## OUR DEFINITION OF RISK

 Risk is the <u>Probability</u> or Likelihood that an Adverse Outcome will Occur in a Person or Group that is Exposed to a Particular Concentration or Dose of a Hazardous Agent.

The Process used to Estimate the Likelihood that Humans will be Affected Adversely by a Chemical or Physical Agent Under a Specific Set of Conditions is Called <u>Human Health</u> <u>Risk Assessment</u>.

## RISK IS UNAVOIDABLE IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

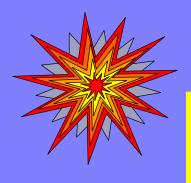
#### Annual Risk of Death in the US. Risk per <u>Hazard</u> <u>Million Persons</u>





Source: Wilson, R. and Crouch, E., *Risk/Benefit Analysis*. Cambridge: Baltimore, 1982 4

## **RISK COMPARISONS FOR** INVOLUNTARY RISKS



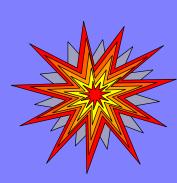
Risk

#### **Risk of Death /** Person / Year

1 in 5000

Influenza Leukemia 1 in 12,500 Struck by Automobile 1 in 20,000 Floods 1 in 455,000 1 in 455,000 Tornadoes (Midwest) Earthquakes (California) 1 in 588,000 1 in 10 million Nuclear Power Plant 1 in 100 billion Meteorite







#### RISKS THAT INCREASE PROBABILITY OF DEATH BY ONE IN A MILLION

#### <u>Activity</u>

**Smoking 1.4 Cigarettes** Drinking 0.5 Liter of Wine Traveling 10 miles by Bicycle Traveling 300 miles by Car Flying 1000 miles by Jet **One Chest X-Ray** Eating 40 Tablespoons of Peanut Butter Eating 100 Charcoal-Broiled Steaks Drinking 30 Cans of Diet Soda Living 150 years within 20 miles of a Nuclear Power Plant

#### Cause of Death

**Cancer**, Heart Disease

Cirrhosis of the Liver

Accident

Accident



Accident

**Cancer from Radiation** 

Liver Cancer from Aflatoxin

Cancer from Benzopyrene

Cancer from Saccharin

**Cancer from Radiation** 

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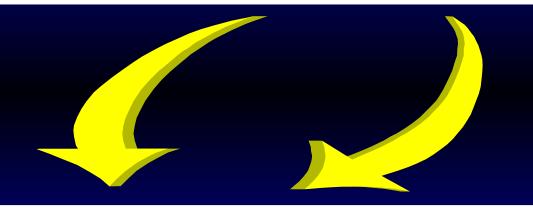
Risk of Accident by Living within 5 Miles of a Nuclear Reactor for 50 Years

Cancer from Radiation



Source: Wilson, R., "Analyzing the Risks of Daily Life," Technology Review, 81, (1979)

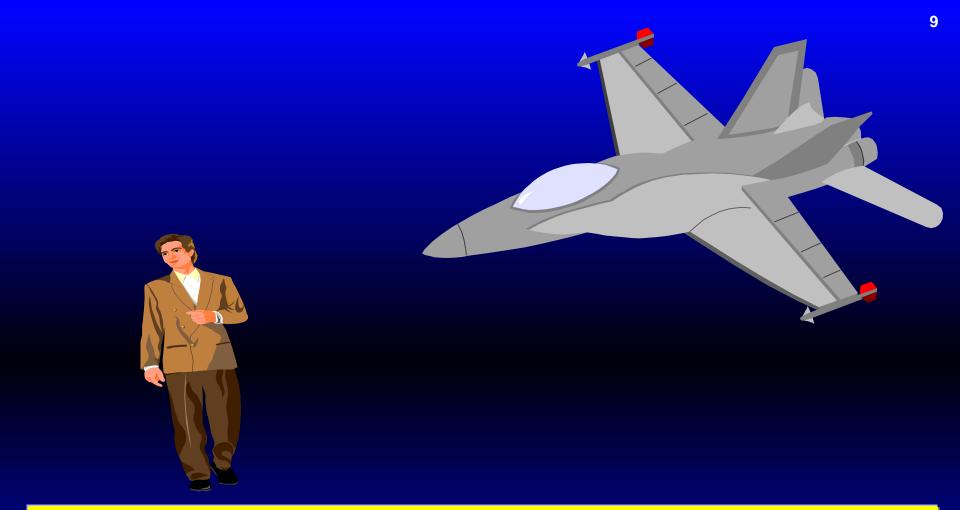
"There is no point in getting into a panic about the risks of life until you have compared the risks which worry you with those that don't, but perhaps should." (Lord Rothschild, *The Wall Street Journal*, 1979).



The 1 in a million risk level used to regulate some chemicals and other hazards is many times below risks which people face every day.

# Your Lifetime Risk of Dying in an Automobile Accident is <u>1 in 65</u> !!!





## Your Lifetime Risk of Dying from being Hit by an Airplane while you're on the Ground is 4.5 in a Million!!

## ELEMENT'S OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Anticipate the Potential for Risk

<u>Recognize</u> and <u>Identify</u> the Hazard

Evaluate the Hazard

 Recommend Ways to <u>Control</u> and <u>Manage</u> the Risk to Acceptable Levels

## BASIC PRINCIPLE OF HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk is a Function of <u>Exposure</u> and <u>Toxicity</u>. The Toxicity of a Chemical and the Potential for Exposure to that Chemical are <u>Equal Partners</u> in Risk Assessment.



## Human Health Risk Assessment

The final step in the overall evaluation of the safety of our products. It is the combined evaluation of <u>all available</u> toxicology and exposure information relating to the intended use of the chemical.

## EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

Three Different Areas of Potential Human Exposure to a New Substance Must be Evaluated:

- 1. Potential for Inhalation of Vapors
- 2. Potential for Absorption thru Skin
- 3. Potential <u>Ingestion</u> of the Substance either Intentionally or by Accident.

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## EXPOSURE LIMIT'S IN RISK ASSESSMENT

- Toxicity Testing is Done on a Substance in Order to Determine the <u>Hazard</u> which the Substance may Present to Humans.
- Based on its Toxicity Profile, <u>Exposure</u>
  <u>Limits</u> are Established for the Substance.

 If Exposure to the Substance is Kept Below its Exposure Limit, the Risk from the Substance is Considered to be Acceptable. THE ESSENCE OF RISK ASSESSMENT

 A Risk Assessment Compares the Predicted <u>Human Exposure</u> vs. the Established <u>Exposure Limit</u> for a Substance.

 The Lower the Exposure in Comparison to its Exposure Limit, the Lower the Associated Risk from the Substance.

## Levels of Risk

De Minimis
 Significant
 Acceptable

## CONCEPT OF A DE MINIMIS RISK

De minimis risks are those risks judged to be too small to be of social concern, or too small to justify the use of risk management resources for control.

The De minimis risk level frequently used by government agencies (EPA, FDA) is 1 in 1,000,000 or "1 in a million" increased risk of an adverse effect occurring over a 70 year lifetime in a large population.