

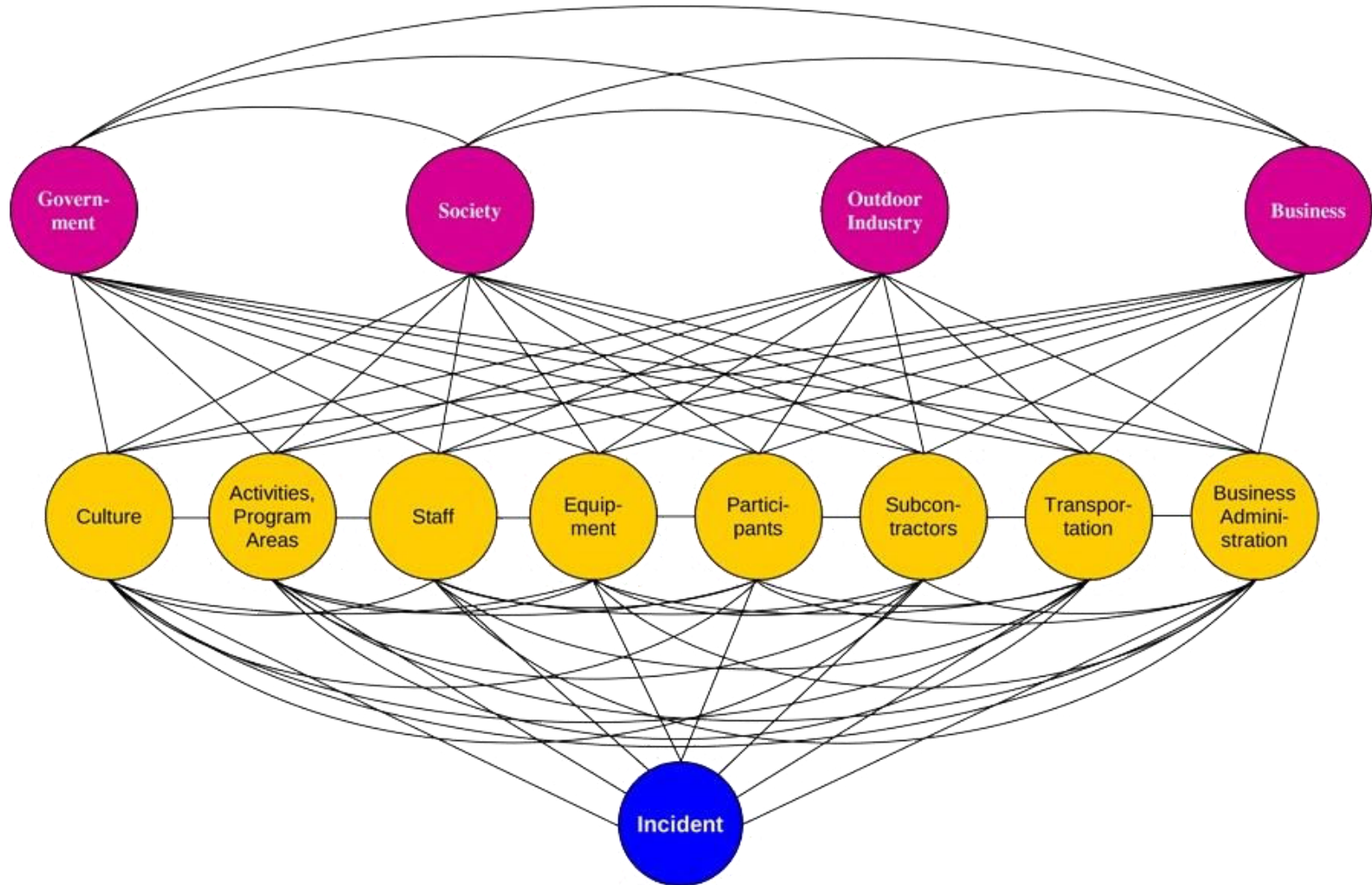
# RISK MANAGEMENT AND RETURNING TO TRAVEL, TRIPS & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

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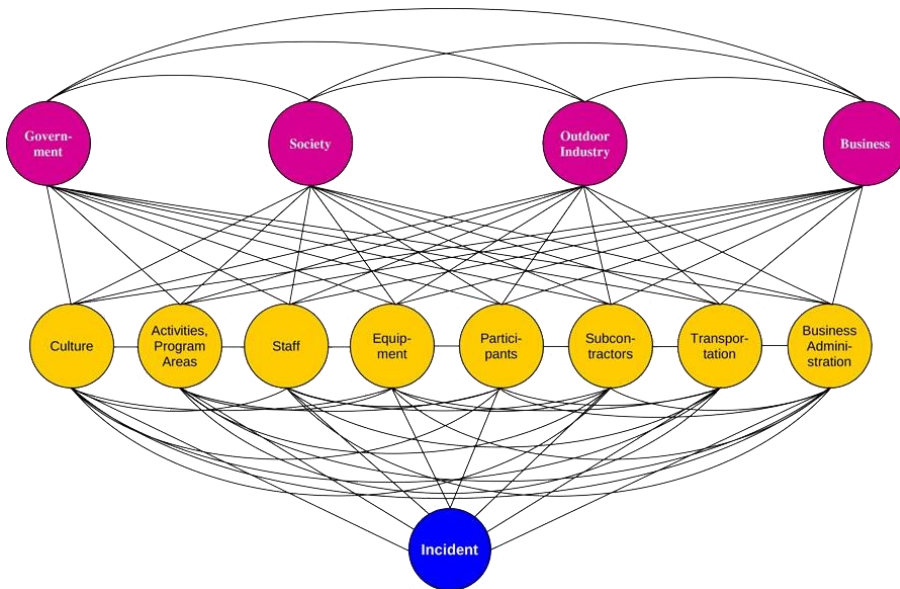
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17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

# Risk Domains Model

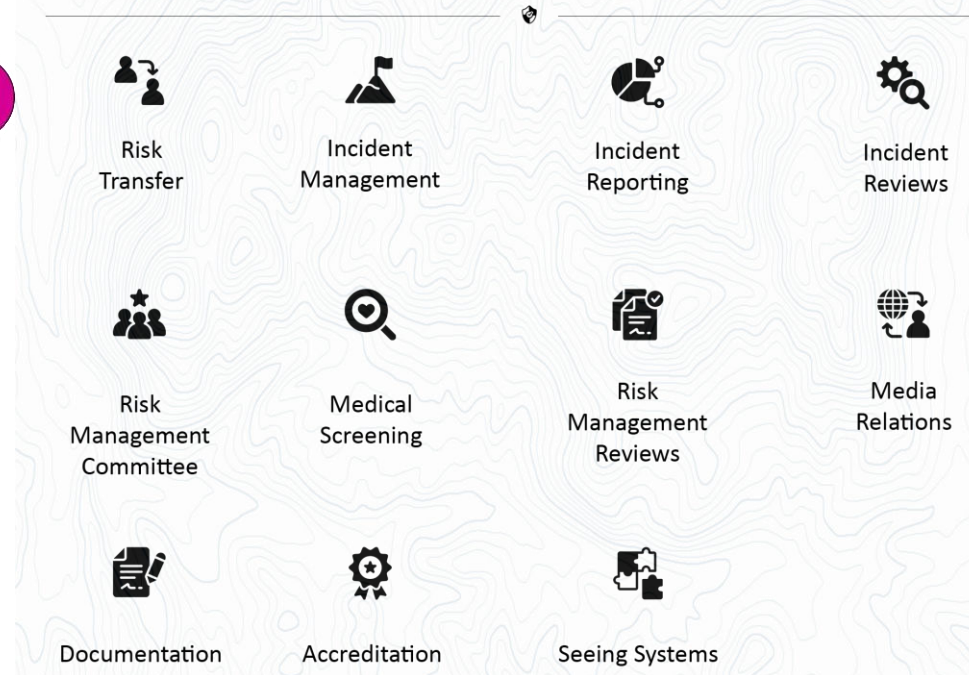


# Risk Domains Model



- *Manage risks in risk domains with policies, procedures, values and systems*
- *Maintain risks at a socially acceptable level/ALARP/SFAIRP*

## Risk Management Instruments



How do we apply complex socio-technical systems theory to safety in travel and outdoor programs?



## RESILIENCE ENGINEERING

**Resilience engineering:**  
create the conditions to  
withstand unanticipated  
problems

## How?

1. Extra Capacity
2. Redundancy
3. Integrated Safety Culture
4. Psychological Resilience

# Resilience Engineering

## Extra Capacity

- Backup staff, gear available
- Staff trained to operate at level higher than conditions normally require—e.g. understands provider standards



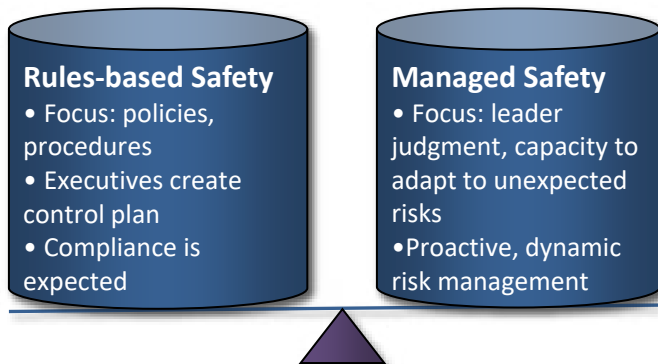
## Redundancy

- Multiple ways to identify emerging safety issues
- Multiple leaders trained in first aid
- Multiple emergency telecom devices & evac options



## Integrated Safety Culture

- Balancing rule-following with using judgment



## Psychological Resilience

- Recruiting, hiring, training and retaining staff who have positive attitude towards challenge

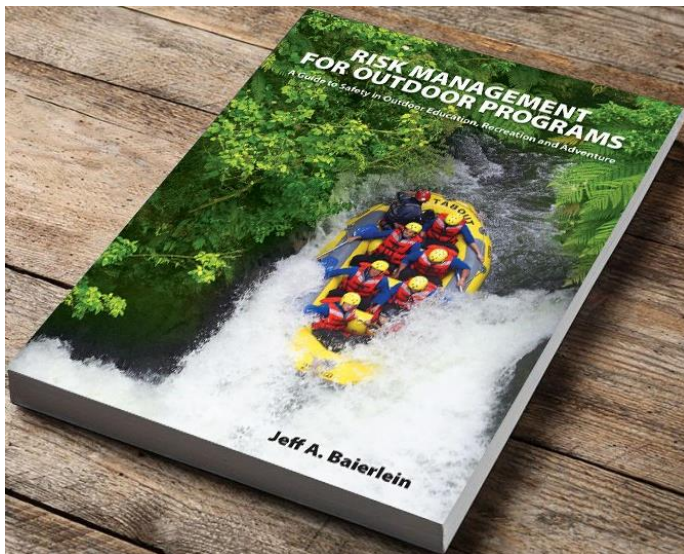


# For More Information

*Risk Management for Outdoor Programs: A Guide to Safety in Outdoor Education, Recreation and Adventure*

**Risk Management for Outdoor Programs**

40 hour online training, held over 4 weeks



[viristar.com](http://viristar.com)

# Why do we do what we do? Resilient and Future Ready Youth!



“Your purpose is to breed a fighting, effective generation with the guts and the will to survive!”

Prime Minister Lee  
Kuan Yew  
11 Dec 1965

## Pre Covid19

3000 student travellers every year

Around 100 separate overseas /  
residential experiences including  
sports trips

On average 2 groups overseas /  
residential or adventure programme  
every week.





# Timeline for 2020

- November 2019, Year 9 India trip and Year 12 geography field trip to Chiang Mai
- December 2019, novel coronavirus outbreak reported in Wuhan
- January Year 10 expedition to Chiang Mai Thailand goes ahead
- February Chinese New Year public holiday, temp checks at airports
- March, borders start to close in SE Asia
- Some schools announce all overseas trips cancelled for rest of the year
- TTS – makes its decisions on trip cancellations month by month

World

## Singapore reports 632 new Covid-19 cases, most workers living in packed dorms

The Health Ministry said of the new cases 9 were Singapore citizens or permanent residents (for number of infections in the country to 19,410.

PTI 5 May, 2020 04:08 pm IST

Like 0



Barrier tapes is wrapped around tables and chairs at a food court during a partial lockdown imposed due to the coronavirus in Singapore. | Bloomberg

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## Circuit Breaker

April 2020 DORSCON orange is declared and borders close

Summer term - school closed – online learning only

WFH is default for most businesses

SG closes beaches, barbecue pits and camp sites

The 'new normal' – Safe Management Measures

OE Dept began sharing online outdoor activities via Zoom and MS Teams eg Backyard camping and Ecoweek games

## Coronavirus: All beaches in Singapore closed to public as circuit breaker measures tightened



PHOTO: A sign telling visitors that the beach at East Coast Park has been closed on April 11, 2020. (ST PHOTO: KEVIN LIM)

## Safe Management Measures (SMMs)

Guidance on resumption of outdoor activities came from a confusing range of authorities

Different venues had different interpretations of the rules

Different schools interpreted the rules in their own way

Decision making was very difficult as situation changed frequently

### SAFE RETURN TO SPORT, PHYSICAL EXERCISE & ACTIVITY IN PHASE TWO

**DO YOUR PART TO KEEP YOU & YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE**

<p><b>1</b></p>  <p>SafeEntry and temperature taking at all sport facilities</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>  <p>2m safe distancing while exercising. 3m distancing for indoors high intensity/high movement exercise classes</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>  <p>Maximum 5 pax in group activities and classes*. Different groups must stay 3m apart when exercising</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>  <p>Contact sports are permitted in groups of 5. Avoid extensive body contact</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>  <p>Wear your mask unless you are doing strenuous activities</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>  <p>Avoid touching common public objects with your hands or any part of your body</p>
<p><b>7</b></p>  <p>Wipe your perspiration with your towel. Avoid touching your face with your hands</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>  <p>Bring your own personal equipment where possible. If not, please wipe down the equipment after use</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>  <p>Senior-centric* activities can resume, limited to activities done individually &amp; no sharing of equipment</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>  <p>Children and youth programmes and activities may resume</p>

\* 1 additional instructor is permitted  
 \* Seniors refer to 60 years old and above




**BE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE.**

# September 2020 – phased re-opening

- School re-opens but no off-site trips, strict social distancing (SMMs) and no mingling
- On-site outdoor activities eg campus Nature walks, Explorer days, climbing in PE, soft archery, gardening in CAS
- Plan for day trips to restart in Term 2( Jan 2021). Most year groups get out on adventure days in March / April (groups of 8) BUT THEN..

# Phase 2 Heightened Awareness

June 2021 , seems like 2 steps forwards,  
1 step back! Campus closed again for  
P2HA.

September 2021 On site activities only.  
Entire classes compulsory quarantine  
and partial school closures.

Day trips planned for carefully selected  
destinations from January 2022 **BUT  
THEN**

Christmas brings a surge due to  
Omicron....



# The Omicron Dilemma

## Is it safe?

- Christmas holidays have been extended to 17<sup>th</sup> January so only 3 weeks before the trip
- Omicron is surging around the world.
- Many families plan to travel overseas at Christmas and will probably get infected
- Meeting with the Principal - ***Do we go ahead and confirm the Year 10 Pulau Ubin trip in February?***

## Y10 Pulau Ubin trip



# We have not been idle!

- Processing cancellations, credit notes and refunds. Not fun but kept us very busy in 2020.
- Full formal audit and report of pre-covid OE programs by Outdoor Education Solutions Australia (OESA) in summer 2021
- We learned how to make better use of our own campus – designed a ‘secret nature garden’, getting new climbing wall.
- Further professional training eg EFRIT, Forest School and Viristar Risk Management
- Development of online Trips management and incident management systems.
- Safeguarding audit – and revised contracts / checks for 3<sup>rd</sup> party providers

# So when and how do we start running school trips again?

- Humans are not very good at making complex decisions. So get help with that, build a team and always do your homework. Know before you go!
- Planning - build in flexibility for different scenarios, and look for key decision points in your timeline.
- Don't get so focused on Covid19 safe measurement measures that you forget to pack the epipen / first aid kit on your first trip.
- Your systems ( including teachers and students) will be rusty and outdated, so refresh them.
- Think about Optics – showing parents and school leadership that you have adapted and you are not just going back to normal. What have you learned from the past 2 years?
- Are you ready for the next pandemic or the next global geopolitical upheaval?



# And finally

- It's been a very tough 2 years for Outdoor Educators but we have adapted and kept going. Dealing with challenging situations is what we do and we support each other. You are not on your own.
- We know that providing outdoor education opportunities and developing the ability to respond to an unpredictable world is going to be more important than ever before.
- Many children have missed out on an essential part of growing up these past 2 years – how can we help them to catch up?

Thank you.