

TOOL THREE

Severity and controls risk matrix

Guidance:

Use the severity and controls risk matrix to rank the identified serious incident and fatality hazard based on the severity of the potential outcome and the strength of controls. Consider the highest level of controls currently in place to either prevent exposure or reduce the impact of exposure.

Prioritize serious incident and fatality hazards with a score of 10 or more in the next phase of the serious incident and fatality prevention model to reduce risk with a robust controls strategy.

Controls ranking descriptions

» Elimination controls:

- highly effective
- physically remove the hazard
- cannot be defeated by worker actions

» Administrative controls:

- somewhat ineffective
- isolate people from the hazard
- highly dependent on worker actions

» Substitution controls:

- generally effective
- replace the hazard
- can be defeated by worker actions

» Personal protective equipment controls:

- generally ineffective
- protect the worker
- very highly dependent on worker action

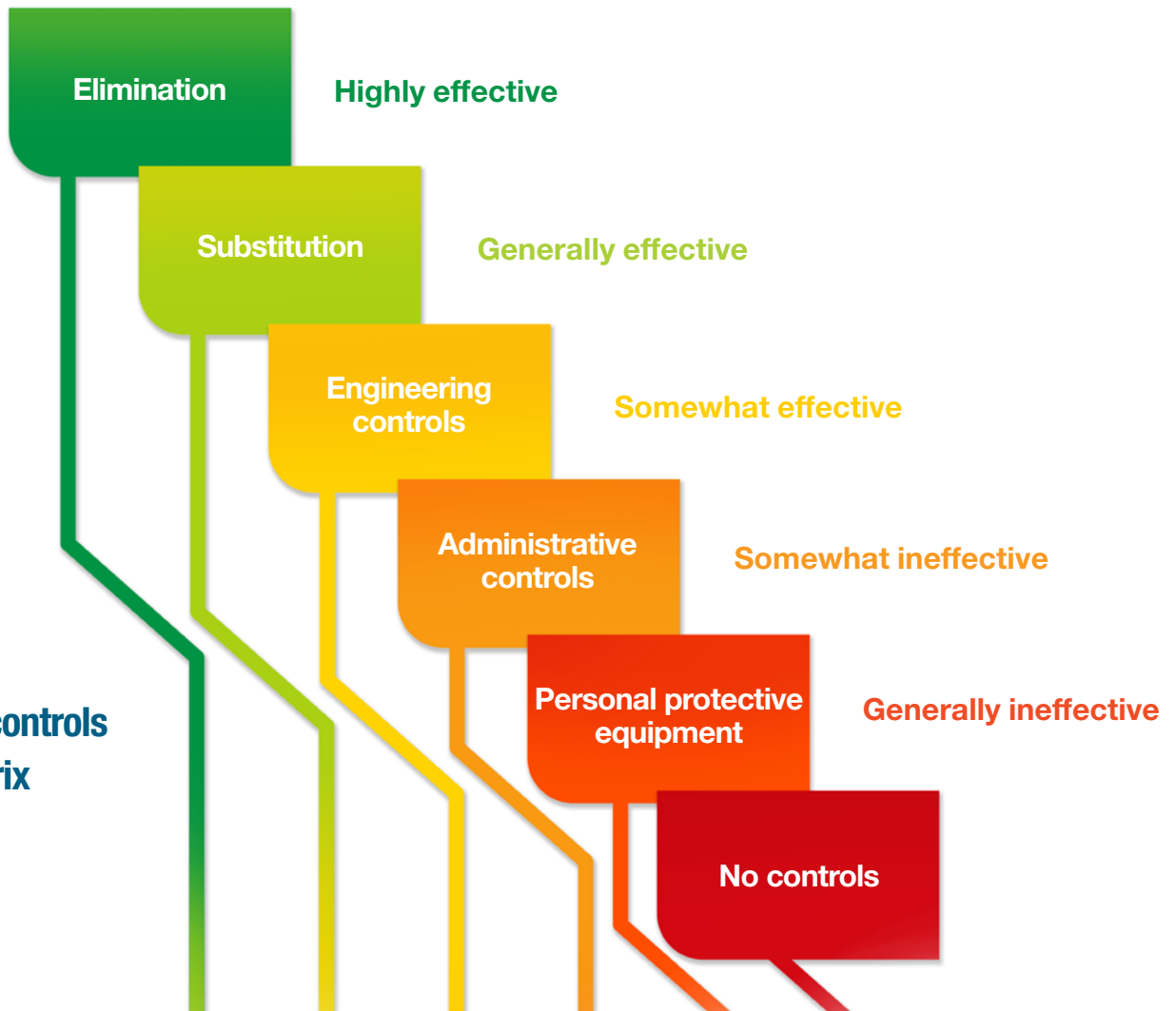
» Engineering controls:

- somewhat effective
- replace the hazard
- somewhat dependent on worker actions



**Note: Risk controls are most effective when they
CANNOT be defeated by worker actions.**

Controls ranking



Severity and controls risk matrix

Severity ranking

» Very high » Catastrophic	4	8	12	16	20	24
» High » Serious	3	6	9	12	15	18
» Moderate » Serious	2	4	6	8	4	12
» Low » Moderate	1	2	3	4	5	6

For additional guidance, see page 16 in the serious incident and fatality prevention model guidebook.