

Risk Message Checklist*

Information about the Nature of Risks	
	What are the hazards of concern?
	What is the probability of exposure to each hazard?
	What is the spread of exposure (who is exposed to the hazard)?
	How likely is it that someone will be harmed from a given exposure to each hazard?
	What are the sensitivities of different populations to each hazard?
	How do exposures interact with exposures to other hazards?
	What are the qualities of the hazard?
	What is the total population risk?
Information about the Nature of Benefits	
	What are the benefits associated with the hazard?
	What is the probability that the expected benefit will actually follow the activity?
	What are the qualities of the benefits?
	Who benefits and in what ways?
	How many people benefit and how long do benefits last?
	Which groups get an unequal share of the benefits?
	What is the total benefit?
Information on Options	
	What are the options regarding the hazards in question?
	What is the effectiveness of each option?
	What are the risks and benefits of other actions and of not acting?
	What are the costs and benefits of each option and how are they spread out?
Uncertainties in Knowledge about Risks	
	What are the weaknesses of available data?
	What are the assumptions on which estimates are based?
	How sensitive are the estimates to changes in the assumptions?
	How sensitive is the decision to changes in the estimates?
	What other reviews have been made; what differences exist and why?
Information on Management	
	Who is responsible for the decision?
	What issues have legal importance?
	What constrains the decision?

*Improving Risk Communication, National Research Council