CRISIS READY MEDIA
SAFER JOURNALISTS. STRONGER STORIES.

RISK ASSESSMENT INFOSHEET

Pre-assignment safety checklist

Hazards are constant. Risk is variable. How much risk you carry depends on your preparation. Work through PETE (People, Environment, Task, Equipment) before every assignment to find the gaps while you can still close them.

THREAT
A source of potential harm, such as civil unrest or armed groups.

VULNERABILITY
A weakness that increases exposure, such as no protective gear or limited local knowledge.

RISK
The likelihood that a threat exploits a vulnerability.

IMPACT
The consequences: injury, detention, trauma or data loss.

P People

Who will you interact with, and what are their risks?

- [ ] Known and unknown actors identified: police, locals, organizers, agitators
- [ ] Team roles and movement patterns agreed. No one works alone
- [ ] Fixers, translators and drivers briefed on the route, safety concerns and story expectations
- [ ] Risks your coverage creates for sources and subjects considered
- [ ] Contact tree built: editor, team, local partners, family

E Environment

What physical, political and digital environments will you operate in?

- [ ] Terrain, weather, lighting and infrastructure checked
- [ ] Obstacles, danger zones and exit routes mapped
- [ ] Local law, curfews and cultural sensitivities understood
- [ ] Current security briefings and threat maps reviewed
- [ ] Nearest hospital and the route to it identified
- [ ] Networks, connectivity and device exposure considered

T Task

What are you there to do, and what do you need to do it safely?

- [ ] Story purpose clear: what you are pursuing and why
- [ ] Activities that raise your risk identified and planned for
- [ ] Editorial goals and filing deadlines agreed with your editor
- [ ] Accreditation, permissions and filming restrictions confirmed
- [ ] No-go zones and decision thresholds for withdrawal set in advance
- [ ] Itinerary and check-in schedule shared

E Equipment

What gear is required, and what are its limits in this environment?

- [ ] Each item weighed: does it reduce your exposure or add to it?
- [ ] Gear visibility and storage planned
- [ ] Protective equipment matched to the hazards you identified
- [ ] Individual first aid kit packed where either hand can reach it
- [ ] Weatherproofing, spare batteries, power banks and backup media storage packed
- [ ] Clothing suited to the conditions

Before you leave

HEALTH

- [ ] Vaccinations current
- [ ] Personal medication and hygiene kit packed
- [ ] Rest and recovery time built in before departure

DOCUMENTS

- [ ] Press credentials, visa and insurance current
- [ ] Emergency contacts up to date
- [ ] Copies in a waterproof pouch and in cloud storage

LOGISTICS

- [ ] Primary and backup transport confirmed
- [ ] Lodging has reliable utilities and exit routes
- [ ] Alternate way out planned

MY PLAN

Check-in contact _____ Check-in times _____

I withdraw if _____ Nearest hospital _____

This checklist is general guidance drawn from the Crisis Ready Media HEFAT curriculum. It does not replace training or a full risk assessment for your assignment. Reassess whenever conditions change. November 2026.

Crisis Ready Media
Safer journalists. Stronger stories.
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