



# The Allotments Regeneration Initiative

Welcome to **Health and safety on allotments: A management guide**. The guide aims to assist allotment managers – both council officers and associations involved in site management – in making allotments as safe as possible for all those that use them.

This pack contains the following sections:

- All about Risk Assessments
- Advice on activities requiring special management
- Allotment site hazards checklist
- Sample allotments risk assessment form
- Resources



Under civil law anyone involved in allotment management has a common duty of care to ensure that their allotment sites are run in as safe and appropriate manner as possible, as set out in the Occupiers' Liability Act, 1957.



This duty of care is extended towards all people accessing the allotment site and its boundaries, including ploholders, association officers carrying out duties, members of the public, bona fide visitors, intruders, volunteers, and allotment authority staff. There are also environmental and animal husbandry laws to be observed.

Carrying out risk assessments is straightforward. Health and safety only becomes unmanageable when responsibilities are neglected.



All activities carry an element of risk and allotment gardening is no exception.

Everyone needs to take health and safety seriously but it is also important not to become 'litigation paranoid', turning allotments into bland, unusable landscapes.



Ploholders also have a duty of care and managers are recommended to inform them of issues in this pack that are directly relevant to them. It is beyond the scope of the pack to give advice about individual gardening activities.



**Please note:** the contents of the guide do not provide specific legal advice. Never assume what your responsibilities are, if in doubt seek legal advice. Members of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners can access free legal advice. Some solicitors work on a pro bono (free) basis.

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