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**Are We Getting Risk  
Assessment Right?  
Or  
'Elf n Safety - Why Bover?**

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# Historical Perspective

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- Across all sectors between 1974 and 2009:
  - Fatal injuries to employees fell by 75%;
  - Rate (per 100k employees) fell by 76%;
- However - more people are killed every year from Asbestos related disease than are killed on our roads and this figure is set to rise until at least 2016
- The public (media?) perception of Health and Safety has changed from a necessary and important part of working life to red tape - until something goes wrong.....

# NEVER, EVER FORGET TO THINK ABOUT SAFETY...

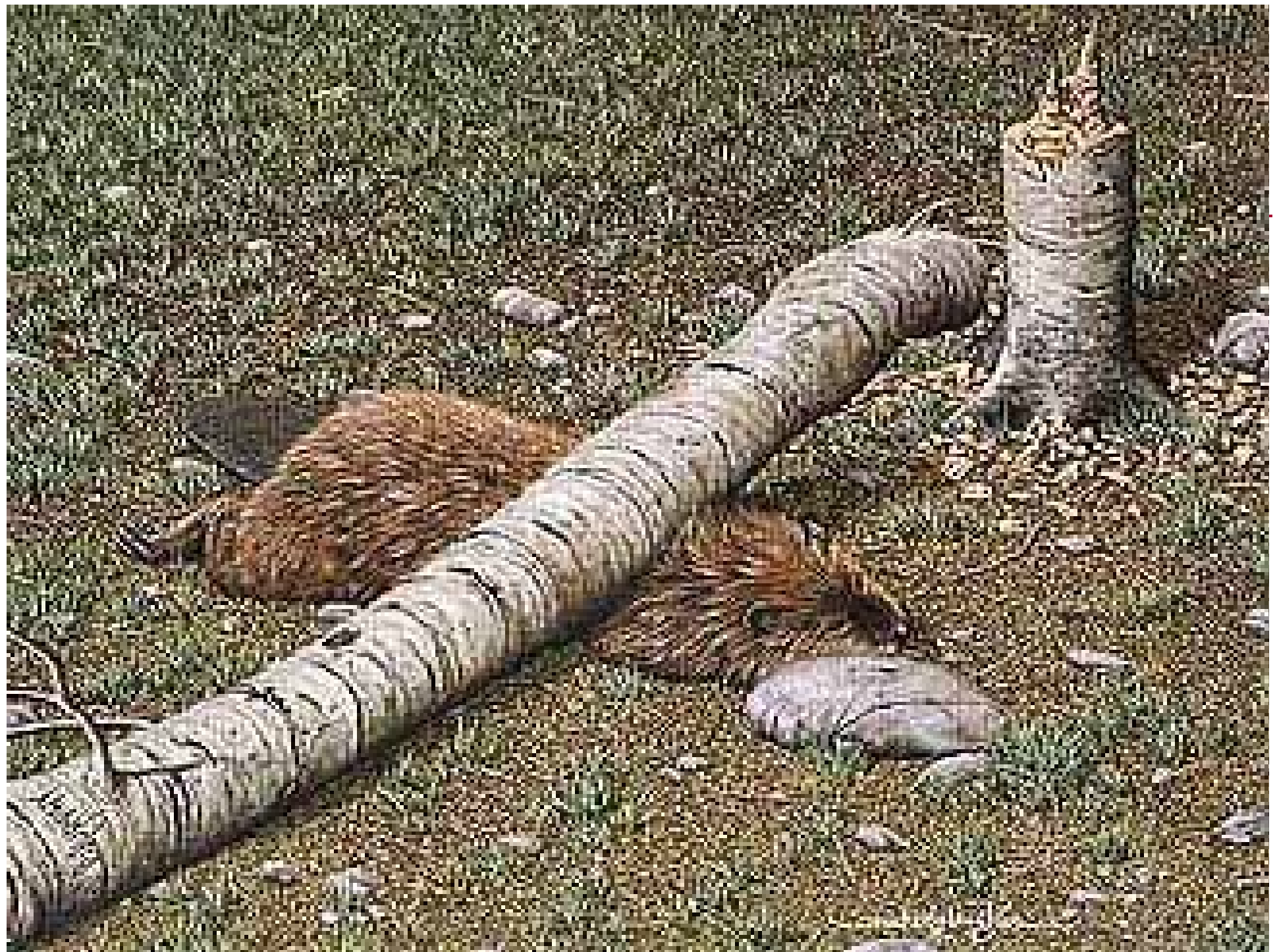
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Even if you were born to do a job, it doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to automatically do it safely ....

Remember that no matter how many times you've done a job before, you need to think the whole thing through before you start.

You've done it a thousand times. It comes naturally to you. You know what you're doing, it's what you've been trained to do your whole life - almost like instinct....

You've carefully thought out all the angles. Nothing could possibly go wrong..... right ? ? ?



# The Regulatory Role?(1)

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- The Regulator is a change Agent
- We are Outcome focussed working mainly through Influence but our inspectors carry a warrant and enforce criminal law
- Enforcement shared between HSE and Local Authorities
- Our main aim is to work with leaders and other partners to achieve change and ownership/management of risk by those that create it
- Our resources are limited and need to be targeted at main causes of injury and ill-health

## The Regulatory Role? (2)

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- Roughly half our time is spent on preventative inspection and half on reactive - including investigation of injuries, disease and particularly fatalities
- HSE's South East Region - covers Oxfordshire to Kent - roughly 15% of economic activity in UK ca 8m working population
- We investigate ca 30 fatalities per year

## The Regulatory Role? (3)

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- Our enforcement expectation is to prosecute after a fatality
- But we maintain a proportionate focus on compliance/enforcement
- Some people change because they feel the heat ..... Others because they see the light...?

# Risk Assessment?

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- Wide interpretation:
  - A waste of time - or
  - A detailed examination of every hazard and an elimination of all risks
- "A careful examination of what, in your work, could cause harm to people, so that you can weigh up whether you have taken enough precautions or should do more to prevent harm"

# What is Risk Assessment?

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- Not covering your back
- It should not stop all activity that could possibly lead to harm
- Sensible health and safety - saving lives not stopping people living
- A balance between the unachievable aim of absolute safety and the kind of poor management of risk that damages lives and the economy

# "Five Steps"

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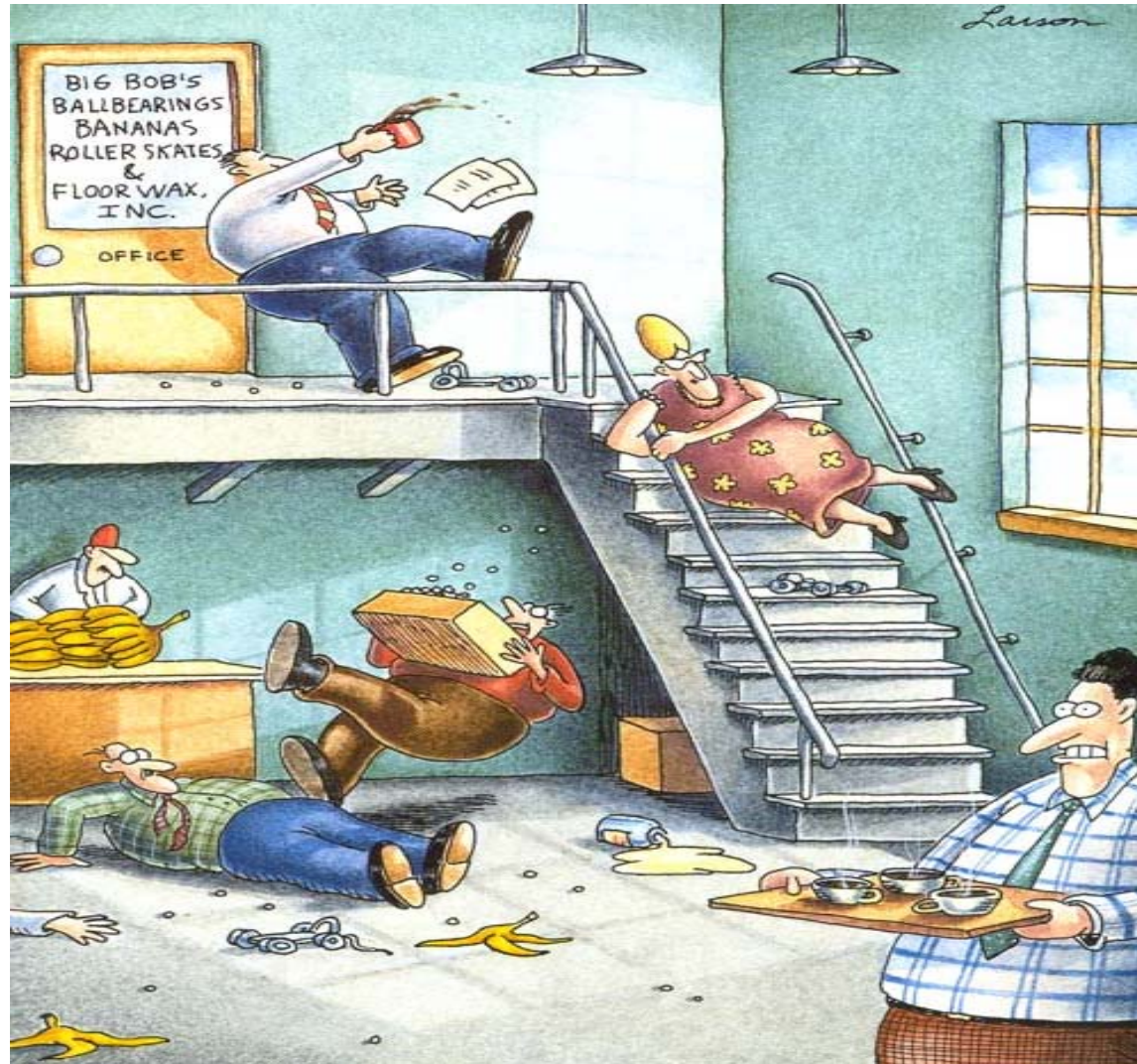
- Identify the Hazards
- Decide who might be harmed and how
- Evaluate the Risks and Decide on Precautions
- Record Findings and Implement Them
- Review Assessment and Update if Necessary

# Balancing act

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Big Bob's Ballbearings, bananas, Roller Skates & Floor Wax Inc- by Larson



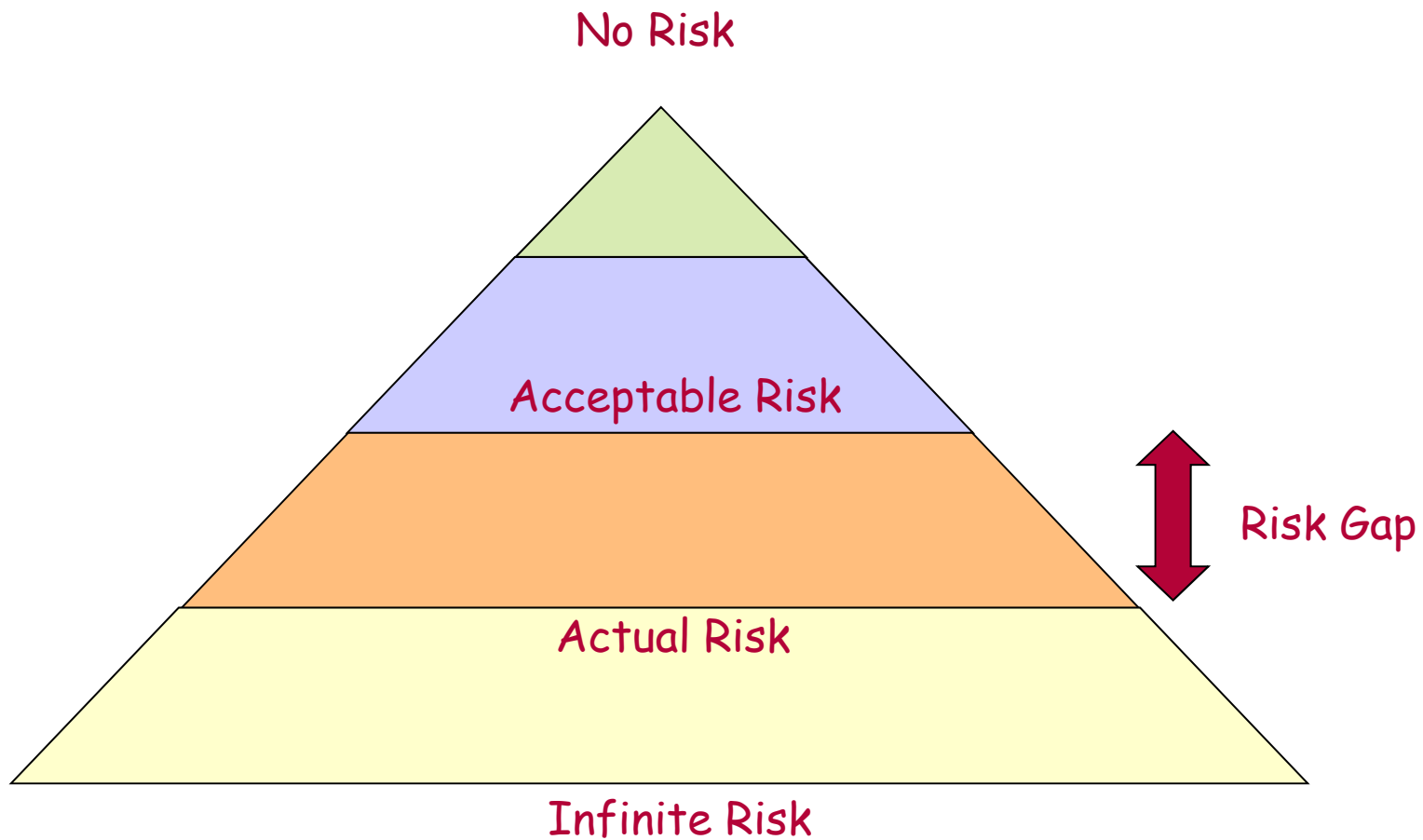
# The not so funny side....

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# Tolerability of Risk?

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# 'Elf n Safety isn't all "conkers bonkers"

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- An inspector in full protective clothing?