



# Navigate360 Risk Assessments

Don't Just Check a Box:  
10 Reasons Why a Certified  
Professional Should  
Conduct Your Risk  
Assessments



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# Risk Assessments: Why They Need to be Conducted by Professionals

*Expert insights provided by: Joseph A. Hendry Jr., PSP, CLEE, Senior Director, On-Site Services*

When I was asked to lead Navigate360's risk assessment team, I thought it would be an easy assignment for me. I had 6 years of military experience, 27 years in law enforcement, 3 1/2 years of security experience and a college degree, and I was a trainer in numerous disciplines. I'd also conducted what I considered to be risk assessments for years.

The quick dawning of comprehension hit me like a ton of bricks. I began to study for the ASIS International Board Certification Exam and suddenly I realized that I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW. The amount of information seemed overwhelming. All my experience amounted to a drop in the bucket of knowledge required to be a professional in the field.

I came from a world of checked-box assessments. Do you have a policy? Check. Do you have security lights? Check. Do you have an alarm? Check. None of the checked boxes signified an effective level of security. None of the checked boxes signified whether the risk was being reduced, accepted, avoided, transferred or spread. No one who was looking at the

checked boxes had been professionally tested and board-certified to give any type of professional advice. Risk assessments can't be measured without field work that looks at security as "what is," not "what should be."



The ASIS International Board Certification for Physical Security Professionals (PSPs) takes several hundred hours of reading, studying, attending class, demonstration, practice tests, learning new math and a test. A board test. Comprehensive, difficult, timed and so very easy to fail if you don't put the work into passing it.

This is all because Navigate360 is committed to doing risk assessments the right way. These efforts are made to ensure our clients are hiring and working with the most adept and knowledgeable individuals in the industry.

Whether you believe you need a third party to do a risk assessment or not (most insurance companies think you do), the benefits far exceed the costs. Looking at a few of these benefits quickly makes it apparent why you should do things right.

# 10 Reasons Why a Certified Professional Should Conduct Your Risk Assessment

- 1 Integrating equipment, people and procedures is a skill.** This requires the ability to understand the technical and human elements. Certification and qualification of individuals who make security recommendations will be weighted heavily in any liability proceedings involving risk management.
- 2 An understanding of fundamental concepts and best practices is crucial.** Risk assessment is a comprehensive process. Assessors should not be attempting to sell security products such as cameras, alarms, locks, devices and weapons. Assessment should be unbiased and should only be based on safeguarding people and protecting assets.
- 3 Professional certification is a rigorous process.** Just because someone has an impressive resume does not mean they are an ASIS Physical Security Professional. ASIS International board certification is the leading physical security designation in the private sector. You may increase your risk by assuming the person you hire can do a professional assessment that will stand up to legal scrutiny.
- 4 A professional risk assessment is more comprehensive than a physical security assessment.** Your assessor should also be able to design, apply and integrate physical security systems and measures. You need more than a stack of assessment papers — you need someone who can implement the necessary changes.
- 5 More than likely, professional risk assessors will save you money.** They will know when procedures and human training can take the place of expensive security systems or upgrades to existing infrastructure. Training is almost always cheaper and easier than changing physical security infrastructure or adding a security system.
- 6 Highly effective assessments prevent reactive purchases, which are more expensive and not research based.** Many security products are impulsive buys made in response to critical incidents. A professional assessment allows you to research and investigate risk solutions that meet your needs before an event occurs.

- 7 Thorough risk assessments look outside/in and inside/out.** Traditional surveys typically look only at the security measures that attempt to slow an approaching threat and provide time for response. An inside/out survey looks at your training, infrastructure and evacuation routes for internal critical events.
- 8 A professional assessor will not recommend gadgets to solve problems.** Recommendations for security measures will be based on sound decision making and a complete understanding of the threat. They will use strategic risk management and comprehensive analysis to look at security measures to make sure their implementation does not compound the problem or cause unforeseen issues.
- 9 The PSP will be able to assess and design security systems for a structure before it is constructed.** It's much more expensive to install security systems and make infrastructure changes after a structure has been built. Unfortunately, this is the way things are usually done in the field.
- 10 Professional security assessors will integrate security systems combining architecture, technology and operational aspects into a responsive and adaptable system.** No one-size-fits-all plans are done by certified professional assessors.





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## About the Author

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Joe Hendry is an ASIS member with PSP certification and a graduate of the Police Executive Leadership College and the Certified Law Enforcement Executive program. He served 6 years in the United States Marine Corps and 27 years with the Kent State University Police Department.

Hendry was an intelligence liaison officer for the Ohio Department of Homeland Security and was named by the Ohio Department of Homeland Security and Ohio Attorney General's Office as an expert in civilian and law enforcement response to active threats. He is a Best Recommended Expert Service Provider for the insurance industry and holds a bachelor's degree in telecommunications. Currently, Hendry is a principal appointed to the Cross Functional Emergency Preparedness and Response (ACT-AAA) Committee for NFPA 3000. He helps to write the national standard for civilian, law enforcement, fire service and emergency medical services in this role. He was also issued the special expert classification by NFPA.

Hendry is a member of the School Safety and Security Council, and he serves on the ASIS Workplace Violence Prevention and Intervention Standard Committee to update and rewrite policy and procedures used internationally by governments, businesses, education and houses of worship.





## Why Navigate360

Whole child safety takes a whole community. Tools, technology and unbiased, expert knowledge all must be leveraged to gain a deep understanding of how schools are keeping students safe.

Risk assessments are a foundational piece of your whole child, school and community safety efforts.

Recognized as a leading emergency preparedness and active threat response training organization, Navigate360 and its experienced assessors have a rich history of delivering competent, straightforward risk and resilience assessments and recommendations to organizations nationwide.

As the only Expert Service Consultants internationally recognized by AM Best's Client Recommended Expert Service Providers for Risk Assessments, our team of board-certified Physical Security Professionals (PSPs) are exceptionally qualified to perform your risk assessment and will give you peace of mind to stay focused on your school's critical safety and security missions.



**Contact us today to schedule a conversation with one of our school safety experts.**



**Schedule a Consultation**



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