

How to research emerging aviation security risks

A practical method for identifying, assessing and monitoring risks before they become established threats.





What is an emerging risk?

An emerging risk is developing, uncertain or not yet fully understood.



For professional discussion and reflection • Illustrative, not exhaustive • Apply alongside appropriate organisational risk, evidence and decision-making processes



Define the research purpose

A clear purpose prevents unfocused scanning and unnecessary information collection.





Establish the scope

Define the boundaries of the risk before searching for evidence.



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Look for weak signals

Early warning often appears as small changes before a clear pattern develops.





Scan multiple information environments

Emerging risks rarely appear in one source or one sector alone.





Assess source quality

Information should be evaluated before it is treated as evidence.



Who produced it?



What expertise supports it?



When was it published?



What is the source's purpose?



Is the original source available?



Could it be biased or incomplete?



SOURCE QUALITY

	Source profile: Global Aviation Watch Independent aviation security think tank
	Author credentials: Dr. Elena Harding Aviation security analyst PhD, Air Transport Security
	Publication date: 14 March 2024
	Purpose: To analyse emerging risks in global aviation security
	Original link: https://www.globalaviationwatch.org/reports/emerging-aviation-risks-2024

Example



Check before relying



Question the evidence



Separate signal from noise

Not every unusual event indicates an emerging aviation security risk.





Identify drivers and enablers

Understanding what drives a risk helps explain how it may develop.





Compare time, place and context

A risk may look different across locations, time periods and operating environments.





Build alternative scenarios

Scenario thinking helps test how an emerging risk could develop.





Assess likelihood, impact and uncertainty

Emerging risks should be assessed without creating false precision.





Identify indicators and actions

Research becomes useful when it identifies what to monitor and what to do next.





The emerging risk research checklist

Good research supports proportionate decisions while recognising uncertainty.

