



Risk Management from a Movie Perspective

AFI 90-802, Risk Management (RM), discusses the tenants and principles of risk management in its thirty pages. We have checklists for it, charts, and even forms to document the process on. But today, we are going to try and simplify it even more with a few risk management lessons we've seen on the big screen.

Movie #1, Jaws, 1975: Police Chief Martin Brody spotted the very large shark swimming near the boat, and he turns to the crew and states "You're gonna need a bigger boat."

Movie RM Lesson #1: Do not underestimate your risk, and be adequately prepared for it.

"You're gonna need a bigger boat."



Movie #2, Terminator, 1984: The Terminator walked into the police station looking for Sarah Conner and realized he did not have the equipment necessary to complete his mission. He looked around, assessed the hazards present, and told the police "I'll be back" while he went to better prepare.

I'LL BE BACK



Movie RM Lesson #2: Assess the situation and always be properly prepared for your mission.

Movie #3, Crocodile Dundee, 1986: Crocodile Dundee and Sue Charlton are walking through the city at night. A mugger comes up to the couple, pulls a small knife, and demands Dundee's wallet. Dundee says "You call that a knife" and pulls out a large Bowie knife and slashes the would be mugger's jacket. The mugger then flees.

Movie RM Lesson #3: Don't bring a knife to a gun fight, and always make sure you are prepared for unexpected risks you may encounter.



Movie #4, Apollo 13, 1995: During a "routine" early space mission, Apollo 13 suffers a catastrophic event which puts the astronaut's lives in peril. The crew notifies mission control, "Houston, we have a problem."

Movie RM Lesson #4: Ask for help when you need it. Despite our best efforts, sometimes things go wrong. The crew realized they weren't going to be able to solve this problem on their own, so they asked for help.

