



KAREN VILAS
Principal Consultant
Supervisor – Business Development

B.S. in Chemical Engineering with Honors, Minor in Chemistry
University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
Masters of Business Administration (MBA), University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

Areas of Practice

Karen Vilas works in the BakerRisk Houston office as part of the BakerRisk Process Safety Group. Karen has work experience in process safety, with focus on Facility Siting Studies and Quantitative Risk Analyses for petrochemical facilities in both the United States and abroad. Specifically, Karen has experience in modeling consequences and risk at oil refineries, natural gas facilities, storage facilities, and olefin units.

Since completion of her MBA in 2018, Karen also works with the BakerRisk Business Development and Marketing team on establishing key BakerRisk service offerings for clients. In this role, Karen works closely with clients to ensure that their needs are met regarding risk prevention, risk management, and risk solutions.

Experience

- Experience in managing large projects regarding the FSS and QRA internationally, including the US, UK, Europe, and the Middle East.
- Experience in consequence modeling and risk analysis using BakerRisk's dispersion and blast modeling software tool, SafeSite_{3G}®, to model flammable and toxic dispersions, vapor cloud explosions, pool fires, and jet fires.
- Gained experience in aggregate risk and risk reduction methods, utilizing BakerRisk's SafeSite_{3G}® and QRATool® to model personnel exposure to flammable, toxic, and explosion events.
- Experience in Insurance Risk Engineering with a focus on gas plants, compression stations, and terminals.
- Karen has helped to develop BakerRisk's methodology and software to support Fire Hazard Risk Analysis.
- Karen spent approximately one year in the BakerRisk Europe office, gaining additional experience in international business, operations, and consequence and risk modeling.
- Karen graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of South Carolina Honors College in May 2007 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and a minor in Chemistry.
- Karen graduated from the University of Oxford's MBA program where she was able to gain insight on business strategy in international markets, as well as enhance her leadership skillset through working with teams of top talent businessmen/women from around the world. During Karen's time at Oxford, specific focus was placed on doing business in international markets and the logistics behind global success.

Professional Chronology

University of South Carolina, (Research Assistant) 2004-2007; Baker Engineering and Risk Consultants, (Principal Consultant), 2007-present.

Professional Memberships

Phi Beta Kappa; American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE); Tau Beta Pi; The Oxford Union.