



Risky Business

Emergency Excuses for When Things Go Wrong

1. *But we've always done it like that.*
2. *Nobody has ever tried it before.*
3. *But we were informed that it worked perfectly well in Tajikistan.*
4. *The evaluation team turned out to be a bunch of incompetent bean counters.*
5. *It wasn't challenging enough.*
6. *How were we to know how challenging it was?*
7. *We asked the 10 leading experts. Unfortunately they didn't inform us properly.*
8. *The theory of change looked just perfect.*
9. *It was only 25% of our yearly grant budget.*
10. *It depends on how you define 'success'.*
11. *We couldn't possibly have seen how much time and effort it would take.*
12. *In hindsight, it wasn't that important.*
13. *It will be a success in the end.*
14. *It's the grantee's fault.*
15. *Isn't it remarkable how the external circumstances have changed?*
16. *It's just a prototype.*
17. *Our accountant was on holiday that year.*
18. *What do you mean by end goal?*