



What the Best of the Best Do | Achieving TRIR of > 0.08





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VP EHSS at AFL Global, a manufacturer of cable, wire and fiber optic cable.

Expertise in safety, organization culture and change management.

Clients have included BP, Chick-Fil-A, Delta Air Lines, Direct Energy, Exxon, FedEx, Hess, Hitachi, HSBC, Milliken, National Grid, Northrop Grumman, Pfizer, Shell, Suncor and Toyota.

Larry has been employed by Amoco, BP, Marsh McLennan, and Pfizer.

B.B.A. the University of Iowa.

M.A. the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Professor at the University of Illinois since 2012.

Professor at Columbia Southern University since 2024.

What's Really Important!













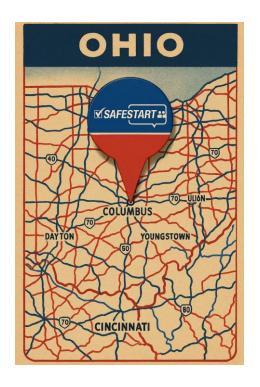


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Roadmap



- 1. Defining Safety Culture
- 2. Safety Performance and Benchmarking
- 3. 10 Attributes of the Best of the Best
- 4. Attribute Deep Dive
- 5. Discussion & Reflection
- **6.** Applying Your Forum Learnings
- 7. Debrief







June 21, 1911

 Crashed into the O.L. Halenbeck in Manhattan and almost sunk upon commissioning.

September 20, 1911

Crashed into the Naval Cruiser HMS Hawke in Southampton.

February 24, 1912

 Lost one of its 26-ton propellers on a well-known wreck in the Grand Banks.

Edward J. Smith – Captain

10/31/2025





Captain Edward J. Smith

January 27, 1889

Ran The Republic aground in New York.

December 1, 1890

Ran The Coptic aground in Rio de Janeiro.

November 4, 1909

Ran The Adriatic aground outside New York.

Known for running ships too fast through narrow passages.

Also known for poorly training his officers.

Was commissioned to command the Titanic.

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'Safety outweighing every other consideration'



... was posted in the chart room of every White Star liner in 1912.

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Culture is Not Squishy



Tangible

Management systems/measures (and their KPIs)

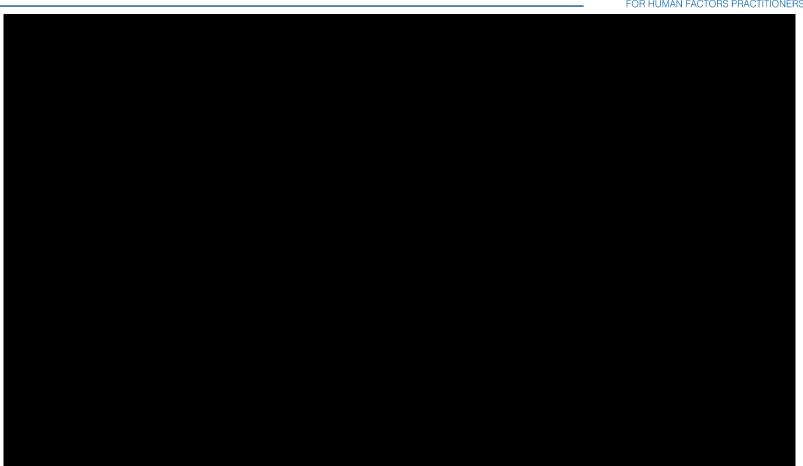
Processes/hazard management

Organization and accountabilities



Safety in Pfizer's DNA





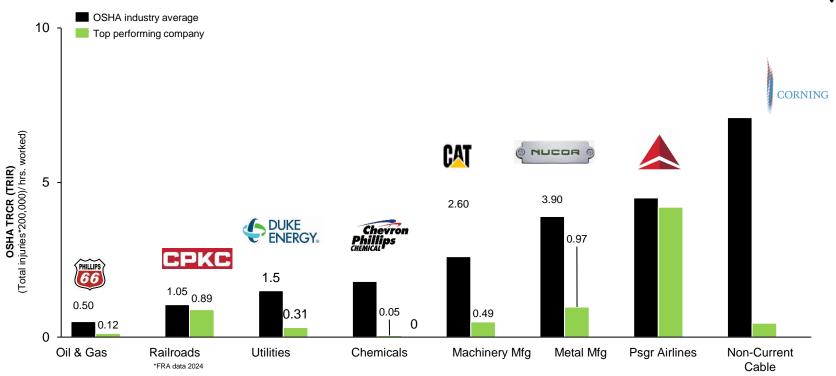
Safety in Their DNA



- 1. Does Pfizer have safety in its DNA? Why/Why Not?
- 2. How do you think they achieved the culture that you saw?

Going From "Good" to "Great"





Source: OSHA TRIR data 2024, Company sustainability reports, FRA data (Class I railroads)





What will it take to get your organization to achieve top 10% safety performance (or better)?

What Do The Best of the Best Do?





1. Safety in their DNA



2. Colleague engagement



3. Safety leadership competency defined and measured



4. Budget cycles integrated with risk reduction



5. Contractor management programs ("Partners in Safety")



6. Leading, lagging, predictive and strategic metrics



7. Barrier management philosophy



8. 'Chronic unease'



9. Human & organizational performance factors



10. Safety innovation in data and technology



Colleague Engagement



- Does everyone "own" safety
- 2. Safety committees as steering teams
- 3. Everyone involved in safety efforts



Metric: 100% of employees on a safety team during the year





- 1. Could you engage everyone at your site?
- 2. Identify 2 ways you could have more people engaged in safety at your organization/location!



Safety Leadership Competency Defined SAFESTART FORUM



COMMUNICATES SAFETY EXPECTATIONS

Communicates the belief that incidents are preventable

- Expects and demands personal responsibility for safety
- Sets clear safety roles and responsibilities
- Builds urgency into the safety agenda
- Uses data to create the case for safety and drive improvements
- Champions the Safety Management System (or core safety practices)

Assesses risks

- Identifies and minimizes operational risk
- Establishes risk tolerance
- Allocates resources to reduce risk
- Reviews all SIFp incidents and acts to prevent recurrence
- Courageously challenges trade-off assumptions between safety and operations
- Regularly reviews safety performance

REINFORCES SAFETY BEHAVIORS

- Leads safety by example and aligns actions to words
- Does not tolerate unsafe. behaviors and conditions
- Recognizes safety champions across the business
- Advocates for mental wellness
- Proactively identifies and intervenes when confronted with an unsafe behavior or condition
- 6. Provides on-going positive feedback to reinforce safe performance and behaviors

ENGAGES EMPLOYEES

- Instills a 'duty of care' for employees and others
- **Engages** employees in safety conversations, committees and improvements.
- Encourages reporting of all safety successes, concerns, near misses, and incidents
- Listens to others and acts upon suggestions
- Welcomes and seeks out 'bad news' and acts upon it
- Uses open-ended questions to explore safety issues with stakeholders

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Metrics: Draw & Describe for all new plant leaders Competency measured with gap closure goals



Budget Cycles Integrated With Risk



All Requests for CapEx include a safety/risk component

Projects for safety/risk reduction are prioritized during the budget cycle

No AFE over \$X is approved without a safety review and sign off.

When approving an AFE over \$X, systemically ask "If you had Z% more funding, how could you make this safer for our people?"

Metrics: AFEs with a safety component and safety sign off



Contractors as "Partners in Safety"



You can't outsource risk!

Contractors are selected by their ability to manage risk

Verification of contractor risk management

Two-way
discussions on
safety
performance

Metrics: Qualified contractor selection

Contractor audits and audit closure

Post project reviews



Discussion Questions



Of the practices we just reviewed, which does your site:

- 1. Do well?
- 2. Would benefit by doing better?



Safety in their DNA



Colleague engagement



Safety leadership competency



Budget cycles and risk reduction



Contractor management





INPUT METRICS

CURRENT METRICS

OUTPUT METRICS PREDICTIVE METRICS

STRATEGIC METRICS

How safe will the job be?

How safe is the job NOW?

How safe was the job?

Where will the next accident take place?

Are we delivering to the business?

Quality
Safety Conversations

HECA Assessment

TRIR

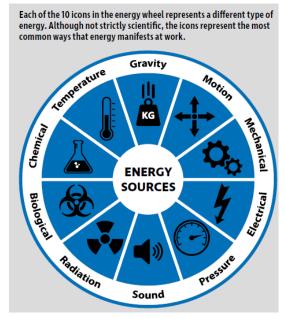
Al, Correlated Data

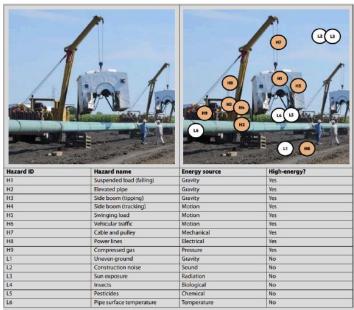
Status of goals investigation status program status



A Little More on HECA







$$HECA = \frac{Success}{(Success + Exposure)}$$

Assess the controls

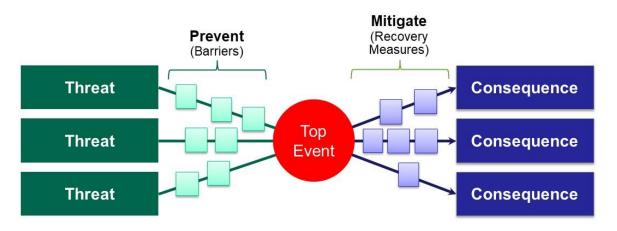
- For each high-energy hazard, identify which have adequate controls
- To be considered an effective control, it must be 1) Targeted 2) Effective and 3) Human Error Proof

Credit: Hallowell, Matthew



Barrier Management Philosophy





Examples of Threats

- · Chemical reaction
- Corrosion
- · Overpressure

Example of Top Events

- · Loss of containment
 - Spill
 - · Release
- · Loss of Control

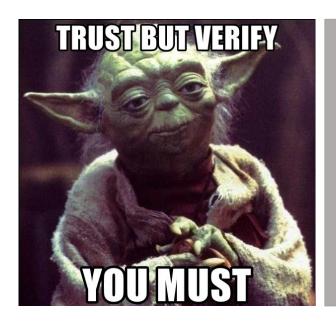
Example of Mitigation

- · Emergency Response
- · First aid
- Evacuation

Metrics: Barrier Failures

SAFESTART FORUM ♣ ♣ ♣ FOR HUMAN FACTORS PRACTITIONERS





Why are the same boxes always ticked on JSAs?

What 'routine' processes need to be verified?

Challenge the Greens

Manage the Reds!



Metrics: Audit and verification of risk processes



Human & Organizational Performance "Failing Safely"



People make mistakes

Failures can occur safely

Context influences behavior

Violations are rarely if ever malicious

Incidents can stem from normal deviations

Management's response to failures matter

Learning is a deliberate improvement strategy





Metrics: Incident Investigations Using HOP principles

Use of Learning Teams/After Action Reviews



Safety Innovation



1. Ergonomic Assessment



- 3. Proximity Detection
- 4. QR Codes
- 5. VR Training











Metrics: Before/After Risk Reduction





- 1. Safety in their DNA
- 2. Colleague engagement
- 3. Safety leadership competency defined and measured
- 4. Budget cycles integrated with risk reduction
- 5. Contractor management programs ("Partners in Safety")
- 6. Input, Current, Output, Predictive and Strategic Metrics
- 7. Barrier management philosophy
- 8. 'Chronic unease'
- 9. Human & organizational performance factors
- 10. Safety innovation in data and technology

- 1. Which of these do you already do well?
- 2. Which of these would make the biggest impact on your organization's safety performance culture?

Forum Synopsis



- 1. What specific actions will you take back to your organization?
- 2. How will you create a business case within your organization?
- 3. Schedule meetings NOW to discuss it with some stakeholders!

What's Next? One point for an idea! Two points for a plan! 97 points for implementation!



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