

PROCESS SAFETY LEARNING #001

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Communicating CoMAH risks to your employees



KEY LEARNINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensure that your employees understand the risks associated with what you do and seek to reinforce those messages periodically.

Ensure that risk awareness is appropriate and targeted to the audience.

Ensure that any delivery is interactive, and involves line management and supervisors where appropriate

Sites with the potential to cause a major accident are regulated in the UK under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (CoMAH) regulations.

Communicating potential risks and hazards to your workforce is an essential part of risk-management.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

All employees should be provided with an appropriate level of risk awareness. This also ensures that operatives understand and are aware of how risks can affect their daily role and the importance of what they do as part of risk-management.

Topics which you may wish to cover include:

- What legislation applies and what is process safety?
- The hazards, risks and consequences associated with your site
- How those hazards and risks are managed
- The importance of your role in managing those risks
- The importance of reporting, sharing and learning from near misses and incidents

Different delivery methods are available and include traditional classroom events and web-based delivery via the site's intranet. The level of awareness should be assessed to determine the

level of understanding and to ensure that the content is appropriate.

Periodically communicating process safety performance and planned improvements may also be beneficial.

More focused training could be provided to personnel involved in specific process units or area of a process plant to further raise awareness of individual risks associated with these units.

MAINTAINING AWARENESS

As regulations change and new standards and guidance are developed, consideration should be given to periodic refreshers.

Other ways of maintaining awareness could include:

- Site inductions
- Toolbox talks
- Poster campaigns
- Intranet information and notice boards
- Daily safety messages
- Discussion of recent site incidents or near misses as well as well known major incidents (for example Buncefield, Texas City, Bhopal)
- Linking information displays with 'bow-tie' diagrams to explain the hazards and safeguard for specific risks

FURTHER READING

More information on process safety and communicating risks to the workforce can be found here:

HSE *Organising for Health and Safety – Communication*

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/managing/delivering/do/organising/communication.htm>

Energy Institute *workforce Involvement*

<https://www.energyinst.org/technical/human-and-organisational-factors/human-and-organisational-factors-workforce-involvement>

Energy Institute *PSM Framework – Element 4, Workforce Involvement*

<https://www.energyinst.org/technical/psm/psm-framework>

Process safety Forum Learning Briefs

<http://www.p-s-f.org.uk/?cat=39> ●

This *Process Safety Learning* is shared in order to promote learning and improve safety. You should seek appropriate guidance regarding the relevance, accuracy and completeness of this information to your circumstances prior to implementation.