

GETTING ON THE SAME PAGE IN PROCESS SAFETY

Hazardous properties of materials, substances and energy never take any time off to allow us to figure out how to contain and manage the associated risks— so we need to keep control at all times. But—we know how to effectively manage such risks. Perhaps we need to be better at presenting the concepts of process safety management in plain and simple terms for all those involved?

It's no good just us experts knowing the answers if we can't translate these into terms and language that everyone can understand.

Why do major catastrophic accidents keep occurring?

Unfortunately, there is no 'one size fits all' solution to process safety. The control measures have to be closely tailored to the risks and to the way the plant or equipment could fail to exactly fit the risk profile of the organisation.

We must 'Get on the Same Page' and get involved in the same way the hazards are. Confusion, misunderstanding and misaligned priorities can all lead to catastrophic consequences.

The term 'process safety' does not conjure up the same shared understanding by everyone within an organisation.

So we must all get on the same page, by:

Developing a shared view about:

- What can go catastrophically wrong?
- How and where things can go wrong?
- What systems and controls are in place to prevent failure?
- Which of these systems make the greatest contribution to a safe outcome and which are the most vulnerable to failure?
- What information is available to show these systems continue to function and deliver the intended safety outcomes?

Answer these above questions and build this picture with everyone in your organisation:

- Senior Executives
- Contractors
- Supervisors
- Employees
- Suppliers
- Plant Managers
- Engineers
- Personnel & HR
- Suppliers
- Marketing Executives

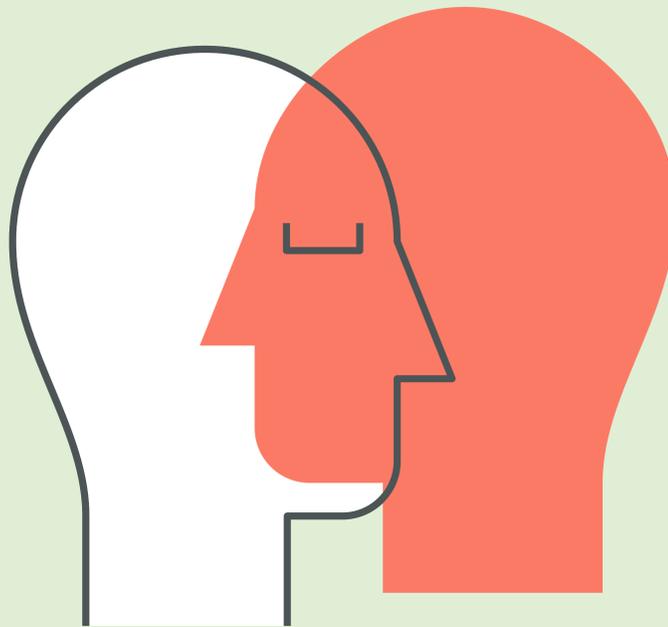
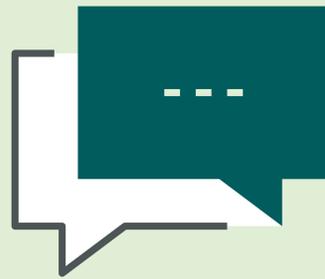
Everyone must understand what can go catastrophically wrong

Describe the way harm can be caused in simple terms based on what can happen that everyone can understand:

- Fire, Explosion
- Release of Toxic Gas
- Release of scalding liquid
- Release of Corrosive Liquid
- Electric Shock

Describe how such harm can be caused—the way plant and equipment can fail:

- Overfilling
- High pressure
- Corrosion
- Mechanical Failure—wear and erosion
- Excessive vibration



Show the important Control Measures the same way.

Show the 'how and where' failure could occur as a process diagram or use a simple bow-tie.

Monitor and measure Performance.

Set targeted KPIs and show their status to all involved in managing risks.

