

## WE RESPECT HAZARDS

Incident investigations show that lack of hazard awareness is an underlying cause of many process safety events. It is important that we understand the process safety hazards that we face at our facilities and be aware of the harm they could generate if we lose control of them. Typical hazards include flammable liquids and vapours, combustibles, toxic chemicals, asphyxiants, corrosives, pyrophorics, and high pressure/temperature.

When we routinely work close to process safety hazards it is easy to become desensitised to them. Some companies call this risk normalisation. This can lead to us not treating the hazard with sufficient respect and us being less thorough about how we control them. Often, people underestimate the potential impact of process safety hazards, particularly if they have not been directly involved with a major accident. Pictures or videos of previous process safety incidents can help to reinforce the sheer size of the potential consequences of our hazards. It is good for teams to discuss the process safety hazards at their facility and whether they fully understand the potential impacts. It can be helpful to ask your company's process safety specialists to explain the facility's process safety studies.

Another common concern is that it can be easy to focus on personal safety issues at the expense of process safety. Sometimes personal safety issues are more obvious and readily spotted and that can lead to process safety hazards being missed. It is important to recognise that both personal and process safety are vitally important and that we need to give due attention to both. Teams are encouraged to be alert for risk assessments that do not cover all the process safety risks associated with an activity.

Depending on your company management systems and legislative framework you will find guidance on major hazard analysis in documents such as: Safety Cases, PHAs (Process Hazard Analysis), Safety Reports, Corporate Risk summaries, and other internal resources.



### Tips for Managers:

Take time to discuss major accident hazards with front-line workers.

Check that risk assessments address both personal and process safety hazards.

Encourage front-line workers not to become desensitized to process safety hazards.

**Additional guidance:**

- Energy Institute: [Reflective Learning video](#)  
– ‘Removing the hazards’
- Step Change in Safety: [Major Accident Hazard](#)  
[Understanding videos and](#)  
[tool packs](#)
- Safer Together  
[videos and other tools](#)
- CCPS Beacon [August 2019](#)
- US Chemical Safety Board: [Preliminary](#)  
[Animation of Philadelphia](#)  
[Energy Solutions Refinery](#)  
[Fire and Explosions](#)
- US Chemical Safety Board: [Winterization](#)  
[Safety Message](#)