

Newsletter – June 2022

About the Forum

The Process Safety Forum (PSF) was set up to provide a platform whereby initiatives, best practice, lessons from incidents and process safety strategy can be distilled and shared across sectors; to influence our stakeholders (including the Regulator); and to drive the process safety management performance agenda.

Recent Activities and News

- **Process Safety Competence**
The IChemE Major Hazards Committee has initiated a project to develop a routemap for process safety competence over the full lifecycle of a chemical engineer. The goal is for engineers to develop and maintain their process safety competence to defined standards throughout their career. Further information on the committee is available [here](#).
- **Energy Transition**
The Energy Transition remains one of the most significant challenges that faces many businesses. The PSF will be a valuable resource for new entrants into the COMAH regulatory framework because of the energy transition and will assist the COMAH Strategic Forum in this regard.
- **New Chair for the COMAH Strategic Forum**
The COMAH Strategic Forum has welcomed a new chair, Gus Carroll. The PSF would like to thank the outgoing chair Ken Rivers, for all his expertise help and support.
- **Covid-19**
Hybrid working for back-office staff has become common since the pandemic. Testing of staff in many instances is being carried out by exception and based on clinical advice.

Care should be taken as procedures and knowledge can be lost because of absence from the workplace due to remote working, especially for new starters.

What's next for the PSF?

Following discussions at the June PSF meeting, we will:

develop new Learning Briefs on a recent flash fire incident caused by a failure of Management of Change.

develop a Knowledge Exchange to highlight common themes and best practice to tackle the risks of loss of knowledge and familiarity with procedures due to Covid remote working and absences.

Safety Messages

Potters Bar Rail Accident Analysis

A recent article for Rail Magazine on the Potters Bar accident in 2022 recognises that the public report incidents, but it can be difficult for operators to separate out those which concern issues such as lateness or cancellation from those having real safety implications.

Carmont Learning Brief

The Process Safety Forum has recently published a Learning Brief on the Carmont train accident. A passenger train struck debris washed from a drain onto the track near Carmont, Aberdeenshire, following very heavy rainfall. The Learning Brief recognises that extreme weather events can cause disruption but can also cause fatal accidents. It is important to appreciate that climate change means that extreme weather events are likely to increase, and that risk assessments, processes and procedures need to be adapted accordingly. Further information is available [here](#).

Analysing Equipment Vibration

Technology used in military helicopters has found application in the chemicals sector to analyse and interpret equipment vibration by visualising motion amplification – highly relevant in reliability and asset integrity processes.

For enquiries please contact the Process Safety Forum secretary or visit our website.

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