

The new Strategy for Health and Safety in Great Britain: challenges and opportunities for us all

Judith Hackitt
Chair,
Health and Safety Executive
15 October 2009



Topics to cover

\\ The new Strategy

\\ Leadership

\\ Priorities for Major Hazards Industries

\\ Process safety

Be part of the solution

\\ HSE's strategy for health and safety in
Great Britain...



Our mission:

\\ The prevention of death, injury and ill health to those at work and those affected by work activities



Drivers for a new strategy

- \\ Formation of new HSE Board
- \\ Slowing of H&S performance improvement
- \\ Concerns about leadership
- \\ Changing workplaces
- \\ Devaluing of health and safety 'brand'

Final strategy

A strategy for the H&S system of Great Britain –
NOT JUST HSE

- \\ 10 strategic goals
- \\ Delivery is now the key issue
- \\ Co-ordinated action towards agreed common goals required from all stakeholders
- \\ Business plans based round the relevant goals should now be centre stage for everyone

Leadership

\\ Confidence and competence

\\ Judgement

\\ Deciding what's important

\\ Being consistent

Worker involvement

- \\ Joint training for managers and employees
- \\ Confidence to identify solutions together
- \\ Effective safety representative systems

Building Competence

\\ Throughout the organisation

\\ Everyone knowing their role and properly trained to do it

\\ Apply common sense, not “by the book”

Avoiding Catastrophe

- \\ Protecting workforce and the public
- \\ Balancing frequent low risk events (slips / trips) vs. low frequency major consequence events

Things do go wrong



Texas City



Buncefield



Piper Alpha

Process safety – relearning old lessons

- \\ Process safety is never fixed
- \\ Process automation and management systems
 - are an important tool
 - not a panacea
- \\ The impact of changes to a process may not be obvious

Process safety – an issue for all? (i)

\\ On and Offshore major hazards industries

\\ The “Buncefield factor”

\\ Throughout the lifecycle

- Design
- Operation
- Maintenance
- Modification
- Transfer of ownership
- Disinvestment

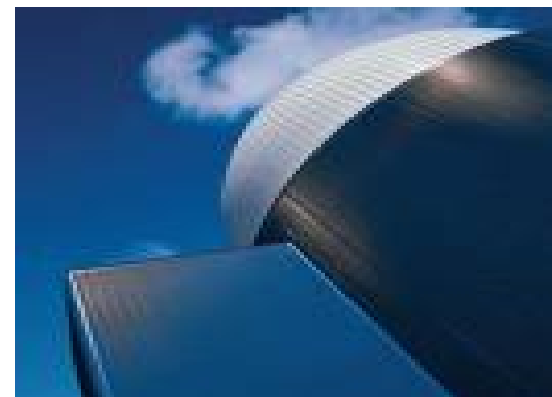
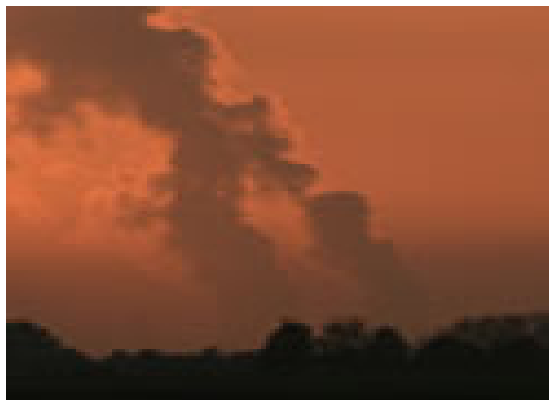
Process safety – an issue for all? (ii)

- \\ Catastrophe can extend beyond HSE remit
 - Business interruption
 - Reputation
 - Whole sectors and technologies tarnished

PSLG – Sharing good practice

- \\ Developed some general process safety principles
- \\ Lessons from relevant incidents in other organisations
- \\ Maintain corporate knowledge and competence
 - ...including sharing knowledge with new **energy technologies industry**

New Energy Technologies



Emerging risks in the energy sector

Helping to tackle climate change by ensuring secure, clean and affordable energy:

- \\ Exploring the process hazards of alternative energy technologies
- \\ Provide guidance to enable the safe introduction and expansion of new energy technologies
- \\ Minimise risks
- \\ Developing and applying a regulatory framework

Process Safety - making it real

- \\ Process safety is a mindset, not a one-off fix
- \\ It has to be measured by leading, not lagging, indicators
- \\ It has to be led from the top
 - understanding
 - asking the right questions

Profiling the risk

- \\ This is about all risks, not either / or
- \\ Risks and hazards must be prioritised
- \\ Focus on those which put workers, the public and the business at greatest risk, not those that are easiest to measure / manage
- \\ Risk profiles can change over time or because of events

Summary (i)

- \\ Health and Safety needs *Leadership*
- \\ Safe and healthy businesses *succeed*
- \\ Do it because you *believe*, not to comply

Summary (ii)

- \\ Make it real and *proportionate*
- \\ We *all* have roles and responsibilities in delivering Health and Safety
- \\ Share best practice

Thank you

Any questions?

