



IPLOCA

INTERNATIONAL PIPE LINE
& OFFSHORE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

Safety Myths

Perspectives from an Industry Practitioner

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Myth #1

Achieving world class safety performance is a business tradeoff and conflicts with other business objectives

Reality #1

Those organizational behaviors which optimize safety performance also positively impact other business objectives

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- It takes effective planning, communications, and discipline to achieve world class performance; these attributes positively impact all aspects of the business
- Safety performance is considered a “leading indicator” for business
- Safety is good for business
 - ✓ Worker protection/morale
 - ✓ Reputation is priceless
 - ✓ Lower business consequence costs
 - ✓ Enhanced business opportunity



Myth #2

**There is only one solution for safety;
doing it the client's way**

Reality #2

**A “partnership approach” to safety
enhances the selection and implementation
of initiatives which yields improved results**

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- **Benefits contractor and client, but also most importantly the worker**
- **Embraces cooperation, sharing, flexibility, and mutual respect**
- **Because contractors have varying cultures, experiences, and challenges, there is no single solution for safety**
- **Contractors have multiple customers; constant change is inefficient and can impact “ownership” of safety**

Myth #3

To achieve world class performance, an organization's systems must be rigidly followed and allow for minimal variability

Reality #3

To optimize performance, systems must allow innovation, facilitate learning, and be adaptable to conditions where it's applied

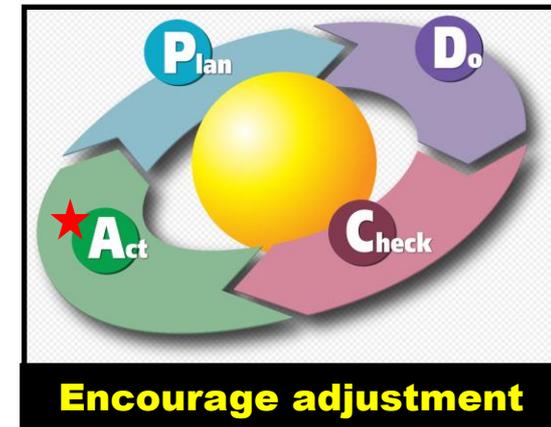
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- **Systems need to provide structure, and should provide some level of consistency and repeatability**
- **Systems should include viable methods for capturing feedback and applying learnings**
- **System users should be provided flexibility in adapting tools to be fit for purpose while sustaining or improving ability to manage risks**
- **Systems should encourage users to apply “critical thinking” techniques**



Myth #4

Focusing on the prevention of minor incidents will also prevent higher consequence incidents from occurring

Reality #4

Higher consequence incidents can and do occur, even when safety performance trends are positive and improving

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- Relentless pursuit of an incident free workplace sharpens focus on prevention of minor incidents
- Continuous search for innovative improvement methods can potentially distract world class performers from the fundamentals
- Important to retain laser focus on the fundamentals, especially for higher hazard activities which require flawless implementation
- Maintain sense of vulnerability



Myth #5

All incidents should be investigated with the same level of depth and resources

Reality #5

“Mining the Diamond” provides insights into focus areas which can reduce the frequency of higher consequence incidents

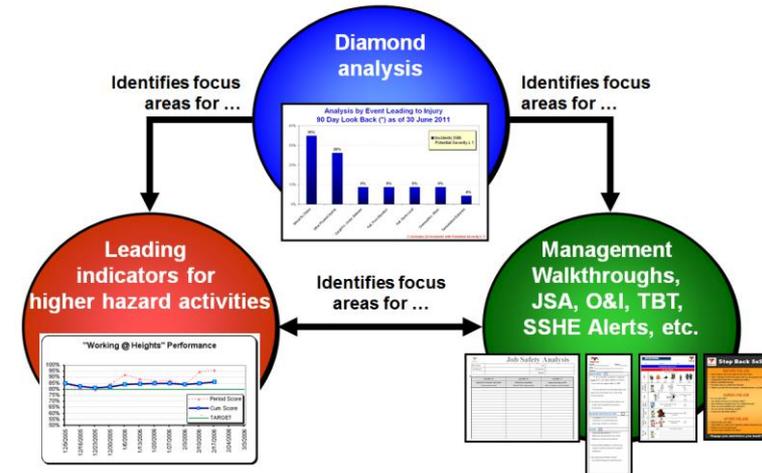
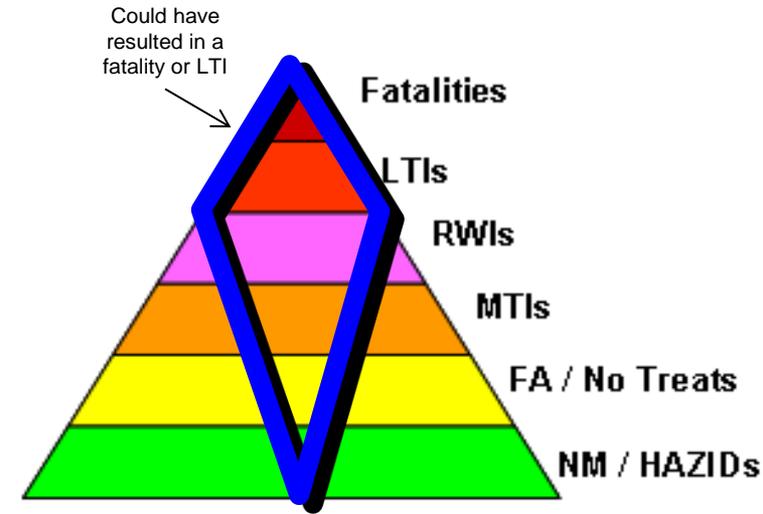
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- Recognition of limited resources
- Focus on higher learning value incidents, specifically those considered “Higher Potential”
- Perform deep investigations for “Higher Potential” incidents
- Perform deep analysis of “Higher Potential” trends
- Identify targeted focus areas and integrate into core safety processes



Myth #6

If you train workers to recognize hazards, understand outcomes, and implement controls, they will make safe decisions

Reality #6

There are numerous factors which impact workers' conscious and subconscious decisions about risk tolerance

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- Historical focus on training to enhance risk awareness
- Recognition that there are other factors which may impact decision making, even when hazards are known/understood
- Risk tolerance can be highly variable between individuals, organizations, teams, nationalities, etc.
- Targeted initiatives have had positive impact at all levels

FACTORS

(conscious and subconscious)

- Overestimating Capability/Experience
- Familiarity with Task
- Minimizing Seriousness of Outcome
- Overestimating Being in Control
- Personal Experience with an Outcome
- Minimizing Cost of Non-Compliance
- Confidence in Equipment
- Confidence in Protection and Rescue
- Potential Reward from Actions
- Role Models Accepting Risk

