



*Safety & Loss Prevention
Subject Group*

IChem^E

Newsletter

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FROM THE EDITOR:

Your newsletter has a new editor. First I would like to thank Lucy Johnson for being a fine editor for the past few copies. Many thanks Lucy and the best of luck in your new work and your work with SONG. I volunteered for this job for a short period as all of those in industry are so very heavily involved in their job. Yet it is wrong that so many of us retired persons should be keeping the Institution's Branches and Subject Group running. So if there is anyone in industry or university who would like to do a job on the S & LP Subject Group Committee and even edit this newsletter please let us know.

This year has seen the loss of three people who have contributed much to safety in our industry. Frank Lees has contributed an enormous amount to loss prevention through his monumental three volume publication on 'Loss Prevention in the Process Industries'. I can still remember him telling the Loss Prevention Panel that he was writing this volume when we were considering a small booklet on loss prevention. We never thought in terms of two volumes as the first edition arrived. His contribution in education and other areas of loss prevention was of the highest order.

Sir Gordon Beveridge was a founder member of our Subject Group when he was a lecturer at Heriot Watt University. He went on to become the Professor of Chemical Engineering at Strathclyde University and the Vice Chancellor at Queen's University in Belfast. Gordon was always a great supporter of safety in the courses he was responsible for but his ill health prevented him attending our recent 20th Anniversary. Lord Robens also made a great contribution to safety with his report on Safety and Health at Work that was issued in 1972 and which led to the Health and Safety at Work Act in 1974. All three have made a great contribution to safety in industry and will be remembered by us for many years.

Most recently I have been reading the proposed new Quality Standards ISO 9000:2000 that will be taking us into the new millennium. I must confess to being very disappointed in it. So much so that I suggest the following Limerick:

The Quality man that I curse
Writes Standards that never are terse
When asked one day
Why he wrote them that way

He replied I endeavour to the best of my ability to formulate a document in such a fashion that no opportunity is lost to amplify and expatiate upon diverse aspects of Quality Management Systems and moreover to reiterate in alternative phraseology the observations and directions of my original ground-breaking formulation of the previously referred to principles in later, updated and sequential versions of the Standard so that those persons charged with responsibility for the implementation of and compliance with the aforesaid Standard will feel it incumbent upon themselves to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest all my disquisition on the subject, which incremental increase in the body of

knowledge are judged by our own team of competent financial advisers to warrant the seemingly but justifiable high cost to the purchasers and customers of such Standards upon whom is also placed the possibly onerous but nevertheless advisable burden of employing specialist professional consultants to ensure that our customer's comprehension and understanding of my closely reasoned and necessarily detailed Standards will be sufficient to defend themselves against any indictment for non-compliance ...or worse.

An alternative version would be:

The Quality man that I curse
Writes Standards that never are terse
With safety ignored
The Standard is flawed
And only makes matters much worse.

My concern centres on the lack of recognising loss prevention:

- Improvements are encouraged but there is no management of change to ensure that the change does not introduce any new hazard.
- There is a lack of performance indicators.
- There is no external auditing to ensure compliance with standards.

I well remember visiting a major haulier on the Continent who was proud of his Quality Certification to the BS Standard 5750. His policy statement, written by the consultants (Certified to the appropriate Standard), stated "No employee will be exposed to any hazard"

This made me recognise the state of the Quality system as being heavy on paper and systems but lacking good management practice. Do you have any comments on Quality and Safety for the Newsletter?

John Bond, September 1999

ACCIDENT INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET

Have you visited the Safety and Loss Prevention Subject Group web site on <http://slp.icheme.org>

You may find this interesting.

The following Internet addresses have been found:

Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office

<http://earth1.epa.gov/ceppo/usa>

ChemQuick

<http://www.chemquick.com/>

Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

<http://www.chemsafety.gov.usa>

National Transport Safety Board

<http://www.nts.gov.usa>

USA Environmental Protection Agency Integrated Risk Information

www.epa.gov/ngispgm3/iris/substindex.html

Major Hazards JRC

www.mahbsrv.jrc.it

www.mcall.com.htmlindex.blast.htm

OSHA

www.osha.gov.usa

Sheila Pantry

sheilapantry@compuserve.com

Silver Platter

www.silverplatter.com

**DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE TO
SHARE WITH OTHERS?**

ITEM FOR BUSINESSBRIEF

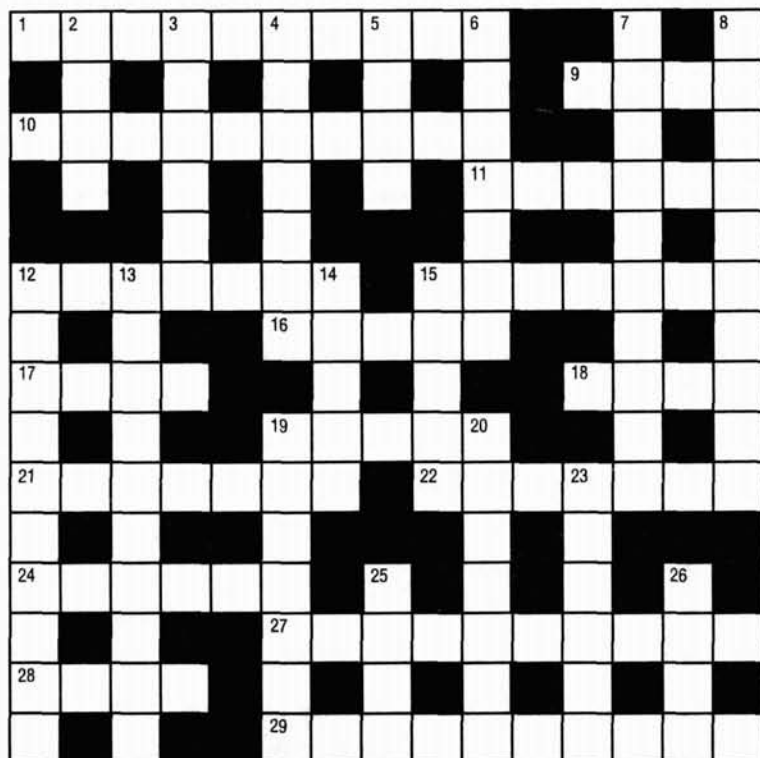
WORKSHOP ON DESIGN AND LOCATION OF OCCUPIED PLANT BUILDINGS

Following the publication of "Guidance for the Location and Design of Occupied Buildings on Chemical Manufacturing Sites," HSE have implemented an inspection project against the guidance. This inspection project will run for five years and will assess the adequacy of operators' assessments of occupied plant buildings.

To assist operator understanding of the technical requirements of the guidance and the managerial actions operators should take when conducting assessments of occupied buildings, CIA and IChemE's Safety and Loss Prevention Subject Group have formulated a workshop which will take place on Thursday 4 November 1999 at AstraZeneca, Alderley Park. The draft Programme includes presentations from members of CIA's Building Standards Task Force who provided the industry input to the guidance, and a representative from HSE who also sat on the Task Force. Another presentation will focus on the current HSE inspection project. The programme also includes several case study workshops where operators and consultants who have experience in conducting such risk assessments will describe both the engineering and managerial approaches to particular event scenarios. Further details on the Workshop can be obtained from Mavis Lawrence at CIA (Tel: 0171 963 6737, Fax: 0171 834 8586, Email: LawrenceM@cia.org.uk).

Copies of the guidance, about which the Workshop will be based, are available from CIA Publications 0171 963 6706 or email Publications@cia.org.uk quoting reference RC21.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 3



DOWN

- 2. In short, worldwide freedom from risk of local taxation regime. (4)
- 3. Backstop around four pins. (6)
- 4. Victorian engineer who kept cattle. (7)
- 5. Greedy prima donna returns. (4)
- 6. Fishy item on menu without a funnel to collect liquid. (7)
- 7. Conservative result of litmus test. (6, 4)
- 8. Poor mother ails because of the temperature. (10)
- 12. Rugby's suggestion for dealing with trouble at 20. (3, 7)
- 13. In which the near miss comes about. (4, 2, 4)
- 14. Silver in the trap should slow things down. (3,2)
- 15. Sounds like a hill, this unit of measurement. (1, 4)
- 19. Cracking good stuff to get alkenes from. (7)

ACROSS

- 1. Scatter, and persist with a scattering agent. (10)
- 9, 10. Bereavement prophylaxis now possible? (4,10)
- 10. It takes two months to boil down. (6)
- 11. Bracing up to climb Everest. (6)
- 15. A consequence of forest fire? (3, 4)
- 14. Electrical circuit comes down to this. (5)
- 15. Ugh, nasty! (4)
- 16. Hardly surprising to find dyestuff in natural umber. (4)
- 17. Prefix with explosive possibilities. (5)
- 21. Wind-borne from ancient Greece. (7)
- 22. Makes watertight an edgy sea creature. (3, 4)
- 24. Residue of illegal drug is a good fertiliser. (6)
- 27. Workers' interests can be unrationed. (5, 5)
- 28. Feeling lost? (4)
- 29. Plea of a whiting to a snail. (10)

- 20. How to keep your engine running smoothly. (3, 4)
- 23. The begetter of 15 down was addressed thus. (6)
- 24. Silly Kate heard in the bathroom. (4)
- 25. Fellow saint is a financial burden. (4)

ANSWERS TO No. 2 CROSSWORD PUZZLE

R	U	N	A	W	A	Y	R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N					
I		O		E		I				R	M		O						
S		U	B	L	I	M	E	D		B	I	C	A	R	B				
K		O		G		L				T		G		L					
A		L	D	E	H	Y	D	E		S	I	L	I	C	A				
S		Y		T		P		S		C		N		M					
S										C	O	N	T	R	A	V	E	N	E
E		B				P				I		A		L		S		A	
S		A	L	T	M	I	N	I	N	G								C	
S		A		M		T		D		S		M		C					
M		A	S	T	I	C				E	S	O	P	H	A	G	I		
E				T		N				T		H		R		D			
N		O	O	S	E	S				P	I	P	E	L	I	N	E		
T				F		N				L		R		N		N			
S		A		F	E	T	Y	V	A	L	V	E	V	E	N	T			

Answers will appear in the next issue.

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE SAFETY AND LOSS PREVENTION SUBJECT GROUP

Thursday 26 May 1999, IChemE Offices, Gayfere Street, 12.30 p.m.

The meeting was attended by 7 members of the Safety & Loss Prevention Subject Group (S&LPSG)

Agenda items:

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 15 committee members.

2. Minutes of the 1998 AGM and matters arising

The minutes were agreed. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report

It has been another successful year of activities over 1998/9, with membership reaching a peak of 597 (marginally up on 1997/8). S&LPSG have run five meetings during the year (including one on Risk Perception jointly with the Environmental Protection Subject Group). Our most fact & action packed being the Dust Explosions seminar at HSL Buxton in June 1998. S&LPSG have strongly supported the development of a revised CIA HAZOP Guide and have contributed very positively to the IChemE's response to the government Foresight exercise. S&LPSG co-sponsored the biennial "Management of Safety" event organised by the London and SE Branch in February 1999. S&LPSG was also 20 years old on 14 May 1999 and commemorated this by having its own 20th anniversary meeting.

4. Treasurer's report

S&LPSG made a surplus of £3,564 during the year and the closing balance was £11,297. The Chairman additionally informed the AGM that the capping limit for Subject Groups would remain at £15,000, approved by Council, for the forthcoming year. A copy of the accounts is attached to these minutes.

5. Election of officers:

The Chairman reported that the following committee members had submitted their resignations:

Keith Cassidy (retiring)
Lucy Johnson (Newsletter Editor)
Geraldine Woollatt (Hon Secretary)

The Chairman thanked the retiring members for all their hard work. Especially Keith Cassidy as a long serving Committee member, who played a major part in the very successful meeting on dust explosions. The Chairman expressed strong appreciation to Lucy Johnson who had done sterling work on the Newsletter. The Chairman also kindly thanked Geraldine Woollatt who had undertaken the role of Hon Secretary.

Simon Turner stated that he had completed the planned two-year office as Chairman and intended to stand down from the Chairman's role. He was thanked for his dedication to the role over the last two years.

The following officers were elected unopposed:

Treasurer: Allen Ormond
Newsletter editor: John Bond

In the absence of an elected Chairman, it was agreed that as an interim measure the role of Chairman will rotate between named members of the Committee for the purposes of running the Committee. The following Committee members were rostered for this role for the meetings indicated overleaf.

7 September 1999 - John Bond
 9 November 1999 - John Gillett
 February 2000 - Malcolm Preston

Simon Turner will continue to represent S&LPSG at SHEPC and Subject Groups Forum, where possible, or obtain a nominate; until a new Chairman is elected.

The position of Hon Secretary remains vacant and, for the present, the Subject Groups Officer will act as minutes secretary. The post will be advertised more widely via the TCE.

The ordinary Committee members were re-elected, save for the above resignations and the addition of Gus Carroll of Yule Catto & Co.

6. Any other business

None.

REVITALISING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Health and Safety Commission have issued a Consultative Document with the above title. The document seeks to promote debate about ways of driving workplace health and safety performance to high levels recognising that improvement has plateaued over the last five years and that there continues to be dramatic structural changes in the world of work.

The Safety, Health and Environment Policy Committee believe this to be an important document and wish to base a response on as wide an internal consultation process as possible. Malcolm Wilkinson is co-ordinating the response from interested persons so do reply to the questionnaire.

SUPPORTING THE CPD OF OTHERS

An important stage in a chemical engineer's continuing professional development is the time leading up to submitting an application for Corporate Membership. Many members are fortunate enough to have someone within their company to act as a mentor during this period. Others are not so lucky and often have no one to turn to, to ask advice of or who will encourage them on.

To support these members IChemE is now identifying Chartered Chemical Engineers who would be willing to act as a mentor to these graduates. If you feel you could give a little time to help the next generation of the profession please contact Sue Fortunka at IChemE (tel 01788 578214; email sfortunka@icheme.org.uk).

SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, HUMAN FACTORS AND SEVESO II

An important one-day seminar with presentations by the HSE

LONDON November 5th 1999

February 11th 2000

MANCHESTER March 10th 2000

The Control Of Major Accident Hazards Regulations came into force on 1st April 1999, implementing the SEVESO II Directive in the UK. Their aim is to prevent and mitigate the effects of major accidents involving dangerous substances with the potential to cause harm to people and the environment. The COMAH Regulations place significant emphasis on safety management systems. In addition, the HSE have recently published new guidance about the actions companies should take for reducing human error and influencing behaviour.

This one-day seminar will present the requirements of an effective safety management system and outline how the Health and Safety Executive will assess this. It will also review recent guidance by the HSE on human factors and present practical methods for identifying, assessing and preventing the risks associated with human error. The event will assist in a timely, effective and integrated approach to complying with the new regulations and guidance.

This IChemE Approved seminar is essential for managers, engineers and specialists involved in the implementation of the COMAH legislation, including the production of Major Accident Prevention Policies (MAPPs) and Safety Reports.

For further information please contact:

Course Co-ordinator

Human Reliability Associates Ltd

Tel 01257 463121

email hurel@compuserve.com

CHEMISTRY WEEK

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY (RSC) IS LAUNCHING A "CHEMISTRY WEEK" (19-26 NOVEMBER 1999) AIMED AT YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

The objective is to promote a positive image of chemistry by highlighting the important contribution of chemical science in relation to health and life sciences. This will be achieved by running a number of events around the country designed to stimulate interest and involvement among the targeted groups. Schools throughout the UK will receive posters and further information about Chemistry Week through the Society's magazine for chemistry teachers, 'Education in Chemistry'. The Society's Local Sections are taking a leading role in organising events within their respective areas but other groups are being encouraged to participate. There is a web site at www.rsc.org/chemistryweek for

further information giving a summary of past events, current initiatives and contact points for Local Sections.

Entrants to chemical engineering degrees usually apply for these courses having established a keen interest in chemistry at school. It follows, therefore, that support for activities, which promote chemistry, may well bring longer term benefits to our profession in terms of recruitment. So if you have any positive ideas for a locally based venture, why not register your interest via the web. Alternatively you can contact:

**TRACEY WELLS,
INFORMATION OFFICER AT THE
ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY,
BURLINGTON HOUSE,
PICCADILLY,
LONDON W1V 0BN
(FAX 0171 437 8883; E: WELLST@RSC.ORG)**

CASE STUDY: ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION - HOW NOT TO DO IT!

1. On a chemical site there was a release of flammable material when a team of two fitters slackened the bolts on the wrong flange of a double-bodied valve. This caused the valve to fall apart and release the material. The supervisor's investigation showed that the people involved were unfamiliar with the type of valve. The remedial action taken was to verbally reprimand the fitters to 'take more care'.
2. Further investigations by an independent person indicated that the fitters had in fact been retrained as part of multi-skilling exercise and their original expertise was in electrical engineering. The internal investigation

had been content to blame the fitters and to look no further. The investigation needed to examine:

- the adequacy of the training given,
- the way jobs were allocated so that they were only given to those who were competent,
- the operation of the permit-to-work system which should have ensured that the pipework was isolated and drained before work started.

Taken from Health and Safety Commission Discussion Report "A new duty to investigate accidents". I trust that your organisation made their comments by March 1999.

FORUM FOR FIRE HAZARD MANAGEMENT AND FIRE-FIGHTING IN THE OIL, GAS AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

This meeting, which was co-sponsored by the S&LP Subject Group of the Institution was held at the Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, UK on 15 – 17th June, 1999. The meeting organiser was Dr. Niall Ramsden, Resource Protection International, Aylesbury, Bucks, UK.

The objective of the meeting was to bring together specialists from a wide range of disciplines who together make up the fire protection and fire fighting community. Over 60 delegates attended coming from all major centres, including many from outside of Western Europe and in particular Eastern Europe, the USA, Australia, Singapore and the Far East. The 3 day meeting was organised around three themes: the first day covering tank issues which started with a review of the LASTFIRE Project which consisted of a Joint Oil Industry Project of 16 companies examining fire protection options for large external floating roof tanks. This was followed by lessons learned from recent and past incidents together with presentations on best practice applications for tankage fire protection systems. On the second day the emphasis shifted to risk based fire hazard management, with the keynote presentation by Trevor Britton of the UK Health and Safety Executive. Speakers who followed focused on response strategy and planning of fire department requirements taking account of a risk rather than

prescriptive approach. The final day concentrated on topical issues in fire hazard management including the role of municipal authorities, fire protective clothing, competency standards for fire fighters and the latest trends in fire and gas detection systems.

On either side of the 3 day meeting one day workshops were held on Specifying and Testing Foam Systems, and Risk Assessment Techniques. Exhibition facilities were available for the 3 days and well represented, including the Institution. Manufacturers were given the opportunity to demonstrate their equipment during a break on the second day.

The objective of the meeting to bring together a wide range of disciplines in the field to talk about the issues which affect them, without undue pressure from regulatory or commercial interests, was clearly met. At the final session delegates voted in favour of repeating the conference, perhaps alternating between European and US locations every two to three years.

Conference papers and other presentation material were made available to the delegates on a CD-ROM, a copy of which is in the Institution's library in Rugby.

John Atherton,
17th September, 1999

SAFETY TRAINING COURSES FROM ICHEME

Screening & Characterisation of Chemical Reactions

14 September, Enfield

Process Scale-Up & Relief Sizing: Exothermic Chemical Reactions

15 September, Enfield

Explosion Hazards of Dusts & Vapours

16 September, Enfield

Chemical Hazard Assessment & Prevention of Runaway Reactions

21 September, Cork

Preventing Gas & Dust Explosions: are you doing the right thing?

22 September, Cork

Hazardous Area Classification

23 September, Cork

Applied Hazard & Operability Study

27-28 September, Leeds

Introduction to Hazard Analysis & Risk Assessment

27-30 September, Sheffield

Design for Safe Handling of Industrial Chemicals

25-28 October, Sheffield

Hazards in Process Plant Design & Operation

1-4 November, Sheffield

HAZOP Study for Team Leaders & Team Members

2-5 November, Manchester

Applied Hazard & Operability Study

22-24 November, Harrogate

Process Plant Reliability & Maintainability

29 November - 2 December, Sheffield

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

TRACY LEPKOWSKA ON:

Tel: 01788 578214 Fax: 01788 577182

email: tlepkowska@icheme.org.uk

BOOK REVIEW

*Workbook for chemical reactor relief sizing
HSE Contract Research Report 136/1998
HSE Books, £70, J. Etchells, J. Wilday
240 pages, A4 format*

Mail order: phone: 01787 881165
 fax: 01787 313995

Pressure relief of reactors is one element of a range of possible tactics which can be used to make reactor operations tolerably safe. There are many others, and pressure relief should not be specified automatically or without careful thought. For example, quenching, inhibition, process control and total containment may also be possible and perhaps more appropriate. So is the tactic of eliminating the hazard. The latter should be an enduring goal, seldom achievable in totality, but an invaluable principle to follow.

The best techniques for sizing pressure relief lines for chemical reactors have been developed by the DIERS (Design Institute for Emergency Relief Systems) research programme in the USA. These are documented in detail in the DIERS project manual, reference 1. Rumours that this is available on prescription from the National Health Service as an infallible cure for insomnia are untrue, but only just. The manual *will* cure insomnia but you have to buy it yourself. Nonetheless it is a valuable reference document, despite not being written in a reader-friendly style. A gap therefore existed for a book which presented procedures for reactor relief system sizing in an accurate, simple and concise manner. This gap has now been filled.

The workbook for chemical reactor relief sizing is written by Janet Etchells and Jill Wilday of the HSE. The gestation period

for their book has been long, and the labour arduous, but they can now look at their progeny and smile quietly in satisfaction. The workbook doesn't present new material or ideas and is not concerned with the frontiers of research. Nor do the authors try and show how clever or erudite they are. Rather it is a "how to do" book for training those in industry and it concentrates on the simplest hand calculation methods which can be used for the sizing of reactor pressure relief systems. (For the inexperienced these "simplest" methods will still be quite complex enough!) It is aimed at graduate level chemical engineers and chemists.

After traditional opening chapters presenting an "introduction" and "overview" the workbook covers the following areas:

- determining the "worst credible maloperation" for which the pressure relief system must be designed.
- establishing the flow regime on venting.
- design methods for vapour pressure dominated (tempered) systems.
- design methods for non-condensable gas producing (gassy) systems.
- hybrid systems which display aspects of both tempered and gassy behaviour.
- calculation of two-phase flow capacity.

There are also brief chapters (with no more than 4 pages each) on disposal systems, reaction forces and maintenance of hardware and software. Eight annexes cover the basis of safety, experimental methods, level swell calculations, computer codes, additional sizing methods, sizing for single phase relief, safety factors and the omega method. The final three annexes are the glossary, nomenclature and index.

Some of the most difficult systems for which reactor pressure relief line sizing calculations may have to be made are those which involve high viscosity fluids, immiscible liquid phases or suspended solid particles. The fact that these are dealt with in a single 10 page chapter reflects the inadequacy of currently available techniques for dealing with these types of systems and the interested reader will need to look elsewhere for detailed guidance. References at the end of each chapter will be useful in this, and other, contexts.

Before publication the draft workbook was sent to a number of external experts for review and comments. Some of their responses have been incorporated with benefit into the final text and most errors of a typographical nature have been eliminated.

The ideal reactor pressure relief lines are short and straight and terminate at a safe location. In practice many lines are long, with tortuous routes and many bends and fittings. Such geometry, and the presence of the relief device itself (bursting disk or pressure relief valve), can mean that the relief line cross sectional area has to be very much greater than that of a frictionless nozzle for the same duty. A factor of 2 to 5 times is not unusual. These are real problems and could have been dealt with in more detail in the text as well as being illustrated with more complete calculations. The latter sometimes need to be iterative. Tabulated data for typical frictional losses (in terms of numbers of velocity heads or number of equivalent pipe diameters) would have been a useful addition. In general, the example calculations which are included are most helpful.

On 23rd February 1999 over 150 delegates attended the one day meeting on "Chemical reactor relief sizing" at the UMIST conference centre. This was the HSE symposium at which speakers outlined the main procedures featured in the workbook. This attendance is testimony to the value of the workbook. It was also, no doubt, due in part to the increasing interest which HSE inspectors are taking in reactor pressure relief systems. The parting shot of the symposium chairman was that you can expect this interest to grow. You have been warned! Go out and buy your workbook. Reference 2 may also be useful in this context.

References:

1. Emergency relief system design using DIERS technology. The design institute for emergency relief systems (DIERS) project manual, AIChE, 1992, ISBN 0-8169-0568-1
2. Chemical reaction hazards and the risk of thermal runaway, HSE leaflet INDG254

*Dr Simon Waldram
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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS/COURSES ON SAFETY RELATED TOPICS

Topic/ Title	Date/ Duration	Venue	Contact Person/ Phone/Fax
Safety of Industrial Automated Systems. International Conference	5 th - 7 th October 1999	Montreal, Canada	Conference Secretary Tel: 1 (514) 288 1551
Modern Control Systems SONG	12 th October 1999		Paul Dolan Tel: 01483 773759 E: paul.dolan@gdhs.freemove.co.uk
Risk Management: Responsibility, Accountability and Uncertainty.	22 nd October 1999	Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London	Fiona Fulton Tel: 0171-304-6815
Guidelines for Design and Location of Occupied Buildings in Chemical Plants. S&LP Subject Group and Chemical Industries Association	4 th November 1999	Sir James Black Conference Centre Alderly Park Cheshire	Dr Mavis Lawrence CIA King's Buildings Smith Square London SW1P 3JJ TEL: 0171-963 6737 FAX 0171-834 8586
Safety Integrity. EPSC	5 th November 1999	Paris, France	Jennie Black/Simon Jones Tel: 01788-578214 FAX: 01788-577182
Risk Management in the European Union of 2000. The Challenge of Implementing Council Directive 'Seveso II'	10 th and 12 th November 1999	Athens, Greece	EPSC Simon Jones Tel: 01788 578 214 FAX: 01788-577182
Accident Investigation IBC Conference	22 nd -23 rd November 1999	Café Royal, London	Liz Hide Tel: 0171-453-2111 FAX: 0171-453-2058
Safe Process Scale-up	November 1999		Simon Waldram Tel: 0181 441 6778 Fax: 0181 441 6754 E: info@helgroup.co.uk
IChemE North Western Branch HAZARDS XV The theme of this symposium is the need for industry to develop an integrated approach to risk control to keep pace with industrial changes, the regulators and to maintain general acceptability by the public at large. The recent Directive from the European Union requires industry to demonstrate by means of a safety report that they are managing both major accident risks to people and the environment. The symposium will bring together academic, industrial and regulatory experts and practitioners from fields of both process safety and environmental protection.	4 th - 6 th April 2000	UMIST Manchester	M. J. Adams "Rawgreen" New Hutton Kendal Cumbria LA8 0AS UK TEL/FAX 01539-732845 Email mikeadams@ valrichardson.com
Computer Aided Process Engineering. EFCE	10 th - 13 th May 2000	Florence, Italy	
Safety and Loss prevention in speciality chemical manufacture. S&LP Subject Group	May 1999		Gus Carrol Tel: 01279 459538 Fax: 01279 641360 E: gus.carrol@yulecatto.com
Loss Prevention Symposium. EFCE	19 th - 22 nd June 2001	Stockholm, Sweden	

NEWS REPORT

Port fined record £4m on pollution charges

Milford Haven Port Authority was fined £4 million and ordered to pay legal costs of some £1.7 million for causing an environmental disaster along 120 miles of Welsh coastline when over 72,000 tonnes of oil poured into the sea from the tanker Sea Empress (147,000 tonnes) which went aground while under advice of an inexperienced pilot whose actions put her on the rocks at the entrance to the estuary.

The penalty, imposed at Cardiff Crown Court earlier this year, is the biggest imposed by a British Court. The Port Authority pleaded guilty to the charges, the first major case brought by the Environment Agency, which were laid under the Water Resources Act 1991.

The Judge, Mr Justice Steel, said a substantial penalty was needed to reflect genuine and justified public concern". He also said that

the pilot - who was not prosecuted - was put in a position by the Port Authority where he could make an error of navigation.

The clean-up, involving ships, aircraft and 1,000 shore personnel, cost at least £60 million with losses to tourism and fishing estimated at £50 million. Ed Gallagher, chief executive of the Environment Agency, said that the penalty would send a strong signal to those who produce and transport oil that they must take more care. The Agency had been arguing that penalties imposed should take more account of the actual damage caused.

Milford's pilotage system has been revised and now requires two pilots on such vessels.

Workers cleared in Oasis site case

Two men charged after the death of another who was struck and killed by a fork-lift at the Loch Lomond site of an Oasis concert have been cleared. The site manager, was found not guilty of failing to ensure that the working area was safe and the driver of the forklift truck was cleared of reversing into the accident victim; repeatedly driving the truck when untrained, and using it for a purpose for which it was not designed.

Principal Contractor ignored advice

On a routine visit to the site of a new shopping centre an HSE inspector found that a groundworks sub-contractor was working in a dangerous manner in some deep excavations. The principal contractor was advised verbally at the time and in writing later.

When the HSE returned to the site a few weeks later dangerous practices were still in evidence. Not enough had been done to prevent people and materials falling into a 4-metre deep excavation. Trench boxes intended to support the sides of the excavation were inadequate. Ladder access was also poor. Workers were inadequately supervised and 4 lacked the necessary training. Inadequate checks had been carried out on the sub-contractors' working methods before and during the work.

As a result HSE prosecuted the principal contractor under Section 3 of the Health & Safety at Work Act and he was fined £12,500 and ordered to pay over £2,000 costs.

Break-in boy awarded £150,000 damages

A boy who by his own admission had broken into a building site on which he went searching for chesnuts was injured when he fell 30 feet leaving him with minor physical disabilities and more serious mental injuries stemming from brain damage caused by landing on a pile of builders' rubble.

At Manchester High Court his lawyer successfully sued for £150,000 damages against the builders, Brackenlea Ltd., of Salford, contending that they had failed to secure the site, particularly as the presence of the horse chestnut tree was an obvious attraction to children.

The money will go into a Trust Fund for the boy.

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Ford Hearses. New bodies, 90/95/96

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