

PLENARY SESSION – 28TH JUNE 2014

Strategies for Reducing At Risk Behavior and Improving Hazard Recognition

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ABSTRACT

Complex systems require a great deal of human contribution to maintain productivity, quality, and safety. Human error is the inevitable by-product of our necessary involvement in complex systems. To eliminate human error would require us to eliminate the best source of creativity, flexibility, and problem solving ability. Therefore regarding errors, our purpose should be to understand the sources of error, predict when errors are most likely to occur and predict which errors will lead to the most serious negative outcomes (injury, property/environmental damage, reduced quality). We can then design or modify the system/job to reduce error, develop personal strategies to reduce individual error, and implement safeguards to mitigate negative outcomes when errors occur. Additional topics include why people don't accurately perceive risk and why we don't always act on the risks we identify. We will also focus on hazard recognition traps that prevent us from seeing the hazards most likely to cause injury.

Keywords: Human error, Hazard recognition