

Newsletter – October 2020

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

- **COVID-19**

COVID-19 continues to dominate the work of businesses and trade associations in the past few months. Current key topics include:

Impact of a second wave on operations, particularly if key personnel test positive, and the impact that has on shift teams.

Whilst regulators are returning to regular inspections, it is important to avoid complacency and maintain alignment with precautionary measures.

To share guidance and useful links a COVID-19 page has been created on the PSF website [here](#).

- **Balham Rail Incident**

Following a presentation by the RSSB (formerly Rail Safety & Standards Board), PSF have agreed to develop a Learning Brief to share good practice and experience in good safety critical communication.

The incident highlighted how poor communication, differing terminology for plant and equipment and a reluctance to use structured safety language can all contribute to the potential for an incident

- **Environment Agency – Five-year strategy**

The Environment agencies five-year strategy highlights the importance of working across sectors and the need to focus on climate change impacts on hazard management. For more information click [here](#).

What's next for the PSF?

We will aim to restart work on our 2020 objectives and seek to develop learning in the key areas of Management of Change and Managing Contractors.

Safety Messages

CSB Dust Hazards

The Chemical Safety Board has published a new learning review on dust hazards.

More information [here](#).

Beirut Port Explosion

- On 4 August 2020, a large amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the port of the city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, exploded, causing at least 200 deaths, 6,500 injuries, and US\$15 billion in property damage, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless ([from Wikipedia](#)). We hope to review the learnings from this incident when they are available.

HSE Safety Alert

- The Health and Safety Executive has published a safety alert on Failure to detect dangerous gas/vapour due to incorrect specification of sample tube, please click [here](#).

PSF Knowledge Exchange

- The Process Safety Forum seeks to share knowledge on key topics through its Knowledge Exchange publications, which are available [here](#).
- PSF members are reminded and encouraged to think about good practice in their own sectors which may be valuable to others. Our [Operational Guidance](#) discusses how this information can be shared.

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

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