

Newsletter – October 2023

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

• Coaching and Mentoring

Coaching and Mentoring can be an important tool in improving understanding and competence in Process Safety.

- Recognises the knowledge and experience of staff is the best asset a business can have
- Can provide a mechanism by which experienced professionals can share their knowledge and experience
- Mentors selected from outside a mentees immediate team can provide a 'safe space' for dialogue

PSF will continue to discuss and share best practice in this area.

• COMAH Strategic Forum (CSF)

The CSF has undergone a period of review and transition. It was noted that the recent independent review of the CSF highlighted that whilst the CSF worked well, it had grown to include many working groups which can be difficult to resource.

A steering group has been established to assess recommendations, and implement an improvement plan.

What's next for the PSF?

Following the discussion on mentoring, PSF will share information on the Coaching and Mentoring Process and feedback for development into a PSF Knowledge Exchange.

PSF will investigate producing a high level learning brief to highlight the importance of considering process safety when navigating the energy transition and net zero targets.

Safety Messages

Lightning Strike

The recent fire and explosion at the Severn Trent Green Power biogas plant in Oxfordshire highlights the importance of lightning protection. Further information on lightning protection can be found from resources, including the HSE [here](#).

Climate Change Adaption

A number of incidents, and extreme weather cases have highlighted the importance of assessing the impacts of climate change on high hazard installations. The Chemical Industries Association has published guidance on Safeguarding chemical businesses in a changing climate, which is available [here](#).

Maintenance Regimes

A recent incident with a kiln highlighted the importance of maintenance regimes - a non-return valve leaked flammable gas into the kiln, causing a fire. Non-return valves should be considered as part of an effective maintenance regime.

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

PSF Secretary: Peter Davidson (TSA)

Tel: 01462 488232

Email: peter.davidson@tankstorage.org.uk

www.p-s-f.org.uk