



April 2011 Newsletter



Guest Column

Bill Boyer is the General Manager of the Mosaic Potash Carlsbad Operation. He is a Chemist by



education and has spent 33+ years in the Potash Industry. He has worked in the laboratory, production, main-

tenance and major plant expansions at the Carlsbad Location. Bill has been involved in the Mosaic hourly behavior based safety program named HOTRODS and is a champion of SAFE PRODUCTION at his site.

Unknown Risk or "You don't know what you don't know"

Every company has a tool box they draw out of to avoid the negative consequences of risk. We use a hazard analysis to consider process risks and decide on preventative ac-



tion. We conduct risk assessments to consider how we can get hurt or what practices need changed and then decide on corrections. We use our behavior processes to assess actions and conditions that could lead to an increased risk. When properly used, these tools can help prevent serious consequences. But what about the unknown risks?

Unknown risks are activities that if you could have only known and could have seen into the future, you would have surely been able to stop them from happening. So how can you prevent an event if you are unaware of the risk? First let's talk about the four general areas of unknowns.

False Feedback or the lack of experience with the consequences



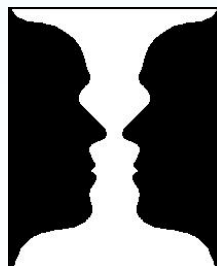
Did you ever take a reading and doubt what it was telling you? Your doubt was based on some learned experience. Many major events are caused by the lack of knowl-

edge of a process or practice. False feedback can be avoided by the proper transfer of knowledge, inclusion of others in discussion, good operating procedures or practices and learning from past experiences.

Comfort in Status Quo or resistance to change

For those of you who were around when wearing seat belts became mandatory, did you resist wearing them? Do you use a knife or climb a ladder differently now than you did before you started working in industry? An effective change process requires hard work even when done well we still need to accept change as a way to maintain and reach safety excellence. If we hold to the status quo, we are accepting our current level of risk. Remember, if you keep doing what you have been doing you will continue to get the same results.

Cognitive Interference or we see what we expect to see



Did you ever cause an event that you did not expect like stepping in a hole while walking or perhaps turning the wrong valve even if you performed that operation many times in the past? You can prevent many of these interferences by asking for a peer

review such as requesting an observation of a task



you perform. You can also conduct a “practice meets procedure” check to see what is really happening in the field verses the procedure.

Desensitization through Habit

Have you ever driven to work and not remembered all of the drive? For those activities that take little effort, we tend to zone out. Don't worry, everyone does it. This is a classic area of risk and we apply the classic fix, we talk and train about hazard awareness. Toolbox meetings are another tool used for awareness. The challenge is knowing you are in that “zone out” mode and bringing yourself back. During routine work, we may allow ourselves to be in the line of fire. If we don't develop a strong sense of awareness that tells us we are in the line of fire, we will continue to place ourselves at risk.



Know what you need to know

Learn from the experience of others, accept change for improved Safety, participate in peer review activities and beware of the routine. With all of us helping each other we just may one day manage that Unknown Risk.

New Mexico Mine Health and Safety Conference

The NMMHSC believes we have the most exciting program for our 4th annual conference.



Scheduled are numerous sessions centered on our conference theme, ***Focus 24-7***. Health and off the job safety sessions will be featured. This will include a session on Exposure Monitoring by Camille Holcomb from MSHA's South

Central MNM District. Camille is the Industrial Hygienist from the SC District and she will discuss qualitative and quantitative dust sampling for

mine operators. For those struggling with this issue, this will be a most informative discussion. We are also offering a four hour Red Cross First



Aid class which can be used for Part 46 and Part 48 first aid requirements.

Health will be featured at the conference with a health fair and the

Miners' Colfax mobile unit on site. We have again managed to keep our conference registration price at the incredible price of \$75, thanks to the generous contributions of our New Mexico mining industry.

Improvements in U.S. Highway Death Toll

Highway deaths have fallen to their lowest levels in more than 60 years, helped by seat belts, better vehicle safety equipment and efforts to curb drunk driving. The Transportation Department estimated



Friday that 32,788 people were killed on U.S. roads in 2010, a decrease of about 3% from 2009. The deaths are the fewest since 1949—during the presidency of Harry Truman—when more

than 30,000 people were killed. This number could still be greatly reduced if we all used seat-belts. Let's translate the 100% usage at our mines to 100% on our nations highways.

Training

The current Training Schedule through March can be found on our web site:

<http://www.bmi.state.nm.us/navTrng.htm>

Please take time to look it over. To schedule a class, please call Chris at (505) 553-1535.