

USW Fallen Workers Scholarship

2018/2019 Essay Instructions

Background:

In 1984 Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal India had a release of Methyl isocyanate into the surrounding community killing several thousand people and injuring tens of thousands more. In 1989 at the Phillips Pasadena Texas chemical facility a highly flammable cloud was released during routine maintenance. The resulting explosion killed 23 people and injured 314. The explosion had an equivalent force of 2.4 tons of TNT and registered 3.5 on the Richter scale.

With continued incidents like these it was obvious that some sort of regulation needed to be put in place to reduce the likelihood of further fatalities.

In 1992 Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals (PSM) standard was added to OSHA regulations (29 CFR 1910.119). There are 14 parts to the regulation:

- * Process Safety Information
- * Process Hazard Analysis
- * Operating Procedures
- * Training
- * Contractors
- * Mechanical Integrity
- * Hot Work
- * Management of Change
- * Incident Investigation
- * Compliance Audits
- * Trade Secrets
- * Employee Participation
- * Pre-startup Safety Review
- * Emergency Planning and Response

Question:

Select 1 of the 14 parts. In 500 words or less, describe what it is, its purpose and how it plays a role in reducing the likelihood of catastrophic failures and fatalities.