The Health & Safety Obstacle Course

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INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RISK AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT
Who is this man?

I am British, ex Army (Royal Engineers) with over 40 years experience in construction and specialist contracting.

I have a few qualifications: -

HNC – Construction Technology and also qualified in Explosive Demolition, Industrial Rope Access (and rope access rescue), Confined Space Rescue, Disaster Management and Recovery – and a few other things

MSc – Occupational & Environmental Health & Safety Management

MSc – Risk Management

I am currently studying for a Masters Degree in Environmental Law

and some honorifics: -

FIIRSM, CMIOSH, MCIEH, MIIAI, RSP
Food for Thought

- Keep your thoughts positive,
- because your thoughts become your words.
- Keep your words positive,
- because your words become your behavior.
- Keep your behavior positive,
- because your behaviors become your habits.
- Keep your habits positive,
- because your habits become your values.
- Keep your values positive,
- because your values become your destiny.

*Mahatma Gandhi*
The Health & Safety Obstacle Course

Just when you think you are winning | So its back to the drawing board

Something comes along to make you think again – sadly that is usually in the form of an accident

Even if you have only just shown someone what to do, they will do their own thing as soon as you walk away

The obstacles will keep appearing unless you control them
Jumping Over Obstacles

Risk Management
This is (or should be) a common factor in all projects, but the lack of Project Risk Management can result in delays, losses etc. that WILL impact safety.

Quality Management
This will be covered by Mark Stephens
What is Project Risk Management

- **Project risk** is an uncertain event or condition that, if it occurs, has an effect on at least one project objective.

- **Risk management** focuses on identifying and assessing the risks to the project and managing those risks to minimize the impact on the project.
Project Obstacles

**Set Up**
Focus will be on moving forward to the mobilization phase and getting people in place. Too many opportunities are missed and too many of the wrong people are employed.

**Mobilisation**
The focus shifts to setting up the site, lots going on except communication, resulting in too many people not knowing what is going on or what will happen next.

**Execution**
Quite often with a major increase in manpower, many people new to site and far too many new to the company, there are no common standards or approach.

**Defects**
The bulk of the work is over and the manpower has been reduced dramatically. Everyone relaxes a DANGEROUS TIME – RARELY RECOGNISED.
Removing Project Obstacles

Set Up
Get procedures etc. in place before the start of work on site – AND MAKE SURE THE CONSTRUCTION TEAM ARE AWARE OF THEM

Mobilisation
Ensure that procedures are implemented FROM THE START and KEEP CHECKING that the construction team ADHERE TO THEM

Execution
CHECK them EDUCATE and KEEP CHECKING and RE-EDUCATE as many times as necessary UNTIL IT BECOMES SECOND NATURE

Defects
Possibly one of the most dangerous phases because everyone has RELAXED – The time to relax is WHEN THE SITE HAS BEEN CLOSED – AND NOT BEFORE!!!
People Obstacles

- Lack of Experience
- Lack of Knowledge
- Zero Safety Culture
- Peer (or Fear) Pressure
Food for Thought

- Tell me and I may forget
- Show me and I may remember.
- Involve me and I will understand.

- Confucius
Removing People Obstacles

**Lack of Experience**
This can only be gained over time, everything that involves us becomes a new experience – as long as we learn from it.

**Lack of Knowledge**
Knowledge is important, but it remains as data unless we learn to apply it properly.

**Zero Safety Culture**
Although it is second nature, people fail to apply this in work situations.

**Peer (or Fear) Pressure**
Something seen all too often – workers trying to impress or in fear for their jobs simply do the wrong thing.
Safety Officer Obstacles

**Limited Experience**
You must understand your limitations in order to be effective.
A lack of or limited experience in a particular situation or process can lead to poor decisions being made.

**Limited Knowledge**
You must understand your limitations in order to be effective.
A lack of or limited knowledge of H&S requirements can lead to poor or the WRONG decision being made.

**Application Failure**
Your role is to advise and assist in order to promote safe practice.
To do this effectively you must UNDERSTAND how to achieve Legal Compliance.

**Fail to Communicate**
Good communication is an essential part of your role. You must be able to deal with people, and help them see what you need them to do, not shy away from them and leave it to someone else.
Removing Your Obstacles

**Limited Experience**
Experience comes with time – your experience can help others, just as theirs can help you.
Get out their, gain experience and gain knowledge, talk to and listen to your colleagues in the Construction Team.

**Limited Knowledge**
READ, UNDERSTAND and ASK QUESTIONS. The only STUPID question is the ONE YOU DON’T ASK
You MUST understand QCS 2014 and Standard Operating Procedures as they are the basis for all safety in Qatar.

**Application Failure**
REMEMBER - you are a Safety professional – NOT a POLICEMAN.
Understand your role and do it to the best of your ability at ALL times. You can relax when you get on the bus, but NOT before.

**Fail to Communicate**
Be honest with yourself and your colleagues.
Set a good example at ALL times, help to LEAD and others WILL follow IF you are having a problem, or your are struggling to cope – GET HELP

**In safety terms** –
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION, SAFETY MANAGEMENT IS A TEAM EVENT – WORK TOGETHER TO MINIMISE WEAKNESS and AVOID FAILURE
Removing the Obstacles

The only way to stand a chance of removing these obstacles is first to identify them and then apply control measures (and/or contingencies), but it doesn’t stop there – you need to keep checking that they haven’t been replaced (or developed into something else).
Food for Thought

- Safety is not a set of rules – it is a way of life.
- To improve safety you have to improve understanding.

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