ABSTRACT

Many process safety incidents in small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) can be traced to lack of knowledge or appropriate worker training. Most SME's do not have sufficient resources or technical staff with detailed process safety knowledge. The technical staff in SME's usually wear several hats, with process safety, environmental, health, quality assurance, and perhaps even operational or maintenance responsibilities. How does the small business technical staff gain process safety information in today's fast changing regulatory climate? It is not from formal courses (as they take too much time away from the plant even if they were affordable). It is not from the out-reach programs of the regulatory agencies as their information is either too "legalese", too general or incomprehensible to the focused technician. Sometimes biased information is provided by equipment vendors or incomplete local news coverage. Delivering the appropriate process safety information to the worker or designer who most needs the information is the challenge of modern safety profession. Tell me, I may forget. Show me, I may remember. Involve me and I will understand. While we get caught up in the latest technologies to deliver information, the above adage must be remembered to be effective. For small businesses with their focused needs, directly applicable information, with no time wasted on abstract concepts, is the requirement.