Trevor’s Corner No 11: The 5th Edition of *What Went Wrong*?

After many years experience in plant operations I was appointed safety adviser to the Heavy Organic Chemicals Division (later called the Petrochemicals Division) of the UK company, Imperial Chemical Industries. My appointment followed a number of serious fires and therefore I was mainly concerned with process hazards rather than those of a mechanical nature.

One of my tasks was to pass on to design, operating and maintenance staff details of accidents that had occurred, in the Company and elsewhere, and the lessons that could be learned from them. After I retired from industry, I published many of the reports in the 1st edition of my book, *What Went Wrong? Case Histories of Process Plant Disasters*. The 5th edition has now been published, with a longer sub-title: *Case Histories of Process Plant Disasters and How They Could Have Been Avoided*.

The new edition is about three times as long as the 1st edition but the extra material is not just “more of the same”. The early editions were mainly concerned with engineering matters. The 5th edition also describes them but, in addition, whenever possible, the new material looks for the underlying or root causes of the accidents, such as weaknesses in organization, “custom and practice”, and culture. These are matters that senior managers should consider even when they are not engineers or scientists.

The book is intended for all who work in industry, especially the chemical, oil and other process industries, and are involved in production, maintenance or design, at any level. It is not just a book for safety professionals; it is intended for all who design, operate or maintain plants, especially process plants, including people at the highest levels. Often the only safety information senior managers or directors get is a periodic summary. They should sample the detail.

The book, published by Elsevier, is already available in the United States. It will be available in Europe on August 5. The cost, for over 600 pages, is 89.95 dollars, 79.95 euros or 54.99 pounds. If it helps you to avoid just one accident, it will be the best bargain you will ever have.

Trevor Kletz
WHAT WENT WRONG?
Case Histories of Process Plant Disasters and How They Could Have Been Avoided

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