In the early 1970s, the US offshore industry took the first formal process safety steps with the adoption of API 14C. The North Sea ratcheted up the process safety requirements with the requirement for Quantitative Risk Assessments. Post Piper Alpha came the more definitive British North Sea Safety Case. The US Mineral Management Service followed the process safety initiatives of the US OSHA with several voluntary API process safety standards.

After documenting how we arrived at today’s offshore safety climate, several potential scenarios for future safety in the offshore processing industry are suggested.