Here is an opportunity to learn from the misfortunes resulting from flaws in judgment on minor decisions. Observe these chemical plant case histories that involve relatively minor errors in design, operation or maintenance. These incidents occurred within ordinary equipment found in most plants and refineries. Each minor error resulted in an unforgettable incident for the involved designers, operators and maintenance crews, as well as their supervisors. You may have experienced similar vivid memorable moments.

Note the fundamentals covered. Each can be shared in a technical review meeting or within the control rooms. As our knowledgeable supervisors and veteran operators hired in the 1960’s and 1970’s (the boom years for hiring) continue to retire, we must share our past experiences with our leaner crews to avoid repeated incidents.

It behooves us to share our costly information within our organizations and within technical meetings to help make us a better industry.