Debrief: The Experiential Learning Cycle, Process Safety Competency, Safe Work Practices, Identifying and Reporting of Near Miss/Incident Data

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Abstract

A pillar of Risk Based Process Safety (RBPS) is Learn from Experience. The work we do and the processes we use to analyze our work provide significant learning opportunities to enhance process safety competency. This is a derivative of Kolb’s experiential learning cycle, but many times we fail to take advantage of the learning opportunities available to us unless there is an incident or a near miss.

This paper will present a simple method for debriefing the job tasks we perform to close the loop on this cycle and capture appropriate data to develop competency, work safely and capture near miss/incident data quickly and efficiently.

Conducting a simplified job hazard analysis will ensure that all hazards are identified, managed, and mitigated prior to performing work. Performing a simple debrief at the conclusion of the work will ensure that we learn from the experience. By considering every job to be performed a learning opportunity, the experiential learning cycle can be used to identify what was done, how well it was done, and how we might improve in the future.