

Expanding the Reach of HRO Ideas and Practice: Lessons from the 2009 Steelworkers Union Safety Conference

The CSB investigation of the 2005 BP Texas City Refinery disaster as well as the Baker Report have set the stage for the expansion of HRO thinking into new sectors. In August, 2009, DOE's Earl Carnes and I presented two workshops introducing HRO concepts to 74 participants. Attendees were members of joint union and management safety committees in industries such as rubber, paper, steel, oil and chemical processing. There was a great deal of interest especially from people employed in oil refineries. The investigation of the BP Texas City tragedy has begun to make people in the oil and chemical sectors see the importance of going beyond traditional technical and safety system approaches to safety. This presentation will examine the lessons learned from the workshops and challenges in spreading HRO thinking to broader industrial sectors.