

SACHE News



Safety and Chemical Engineering Education - Spring 2008

Risk Assessment for Major Hazard Control: How Realistic Are Those Frequencies?

The Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CSChE) is hosting the Eighth World Congress of Chemical Engineering in Montreal, QC, from August 23-29, 2009. As part of this congress, the CSChE's Process Safety Management Division will be holding the Thirteenth Process Safety and Loss Management Symposium.

The planned focus of this symposium is on the frequency component used in risk assessment of major industrial accidents.

Although much has changed in recent decades in how the consequences are treated, estimation of frequencies still appears to be largely based on values from several decades ago, and may not reflect emerging factors such as safety culture, normalization of deviance, etc. The intent of this international symposium is, therefore, to examine the relevance of the increased understanding of frequency factors, and how this knowledge can be integrated into traditional approaches to risk assessment.

The suggested outline for the symposium is:

- A brief review of how the frequency values currently in use were originally derived;
- What has been learned since those values were established;
- Whether the values continue to represent realistic estimates of frequency or whether they should be

2008 SACHE Faculty Workshop September 14-17, 2008 Northern Philadelphia Region

Registration for the 2008 SACHE Faculty Workshop will remain open on a first come first serve basis until June 26, 2008. The workshop will be held at the Corporate Engineering Division, Rohm and Haas Company, Croydon, Pennsylvania, and at the Sunoco Chemicals Plant in Northern Philadelphia. This year the program will focus on dusts and reactivity hazards in connection to batch processing (Rohm and Haas) and the safety precautions taken in terms of fire protection and storage tank layout for a continuous phenol plant (Sunoco). Room and meal expenses are covered by the Center for Chemical Process Safety and Arkema, Inc. Each registrant must cover their travel expenses to and from Philadelphia. Presently there are 13 spots available. For a registration form, please email a request to Ron Willey at r.willey@neu.edu.

revised to incorporate more recent knowledge and, if so:

- To get some sense of how much the values should be changed;
- To understand the implications of those changes;
- To agree on a general process for establishing consensus on any revised values; and
- To agree on how to manage the introduction of any new values to the risk assessment community.

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SACHE, or Safety and Chemical Engineering Education, is a project under the auspices of AIChE's Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS). SACHE's charter is to enhance the presentation of process safety in undergraduate education.

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Articles related to any aspects of safety in the academic community are solicited from both the academic and industrial communities for publication in *SACHE News*. Material should be sent directly to the editor for consideration.

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A Century of Process Safety 2008 AIChE Annual Meeting

This session will bring together noted AIChE process safety professionals to review the history of process safety in AIChE and to highlight the technical and educational accomplishments achieved. This will include a history of the Loss Prevention Symposium, the Safety and Health Division, the Center for Chemical Process Safety, and the Safety and Chemical Engineering Education (SACHE) Program. A historical perspective on recent industrial progress, aided by AIChE efforts, will summarize the impact of OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) Standard, EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP) Rule, and the Vulnerability Assessments (initiated after the 9/11 terrorist attacks) on the safety programs in the chemical process industry.

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Safety Inspectors Needed for National Chem-E-Car Competition

To assure the safe preparation and operation of all vehicles during the Chem-E-Care competition, an audit team will inspect each vehicle to ensure that all of the safety requirements have been completed and that the vehicle will operate without risk to the operators, contest staff, and spectators. These inspections will take place during the poster session on Saturday, November 14. The Chem-E-Care Rules are posted at <http://www.aiche.org/Students/Conferences/chemecar.aspx>.

If you are able to participate in these inspections please email Dan Crowl (crowl@mtu.edu).

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However, we intend to organize conference calls over the next few months to agree on how best to structure the agenda to get the most out of this important event.

We are, therefore, inviting you or your organization, as one with a strong interest in this field, to participate in this symposium¹. Please let us know if you are able to join us in this worthwhile endeavour, and who your representative will be for future contact.

Please contact either of the undersigned if you would like more information.

Yours truly,

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¹ As the symposium will be part of the World Congress, there will be a registration fee for all participants. However, this fee is expected to be moderate. More information will be available on the conference website www.chemengcongress2009.com.