

[<Back](#)

 [Print](#)

November '07 TapRooT® Friends/Experts e-Newsletter

Thank you for being one of our 17,024 subscribers!

[Editor's Letter by Mark Paradies](#)

Press Wants "Public" Access To MSHA Root Cause Analysis While it is in Progress - Federal Judge Says "NO."

[Earn CEU Credits and CIH CM Points for TapRooT® Training!](#)

Earn Credits toward your Professional Development this Year by Attending a Course and Next Year by Registering for the 2008 Summit!

[The TapRooT® Course Schedule](#)

Only Two Months Left in 2007! Hurry to Reserve your Seat!

[The 2008 TapRooT® Summit](#)

Mark Your Calendar for June 23-25 in Las Vegas!

[2-Day TapRooT® Incident Investigator Course and 3-Day Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting Course in Las Vegas! by Ashley Bentz](#)

It's Not Too Late to Register for our December Courses!

[2-Day TapRooT® Incident Investigator Course and 3-Day Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting Course in Bogota, Colombia!](#)

Register Now for Our Course in South America!

[Root Cause Analysis Blog](#)

TapRooT® News / Performance Improvements / Healthcare / Accidents and Lessons Learned / Job Postings / Friday Jokes and much more!

[Equifactor® and FMEA](#)

Learn How Our Equipment Troubleshooting Software Can Help Identify Risks of Failures.

[Top Tips from Summit Attendees](#)

Summit Attendees Share What They've Learned.

[Six Sailors Aboard USS Hampton Punished for Falsifying Nuclear Reactor Chemistry Records](#)

Required Analysis of Chemical and Radiological Properties of Submarine's

Reactor was Skipped for more than a Month!

[OSHA Top 10 Hazards List](#)
[OSHA Releases 2007 Statistics.](#)

[Facing the Ethics Crisis by George Burk](#)
[Captain George Burk Offers Steps to Make an Ethics Program Effective.](#)

[Q&A Column](#)
[Where Does the Accident Pyramid Come From?](#)

[J.O.K.E. of the Month](#)
[And the Root Cause Is?](#)

[Editor's Letter](#)

Dear TapRooT® Friends and Experts:

I agree with good investigations and thorough root cause analysis of accidents with complete analysis of the Management System and any regulatory failures. I also think we should have access to the results of government investigations. But the press is asking for access to a current - ongoing - MSHA investigation. I believe that kind of access is unprecedented and harmful. See if you agree . . .

MSHA is performing a root cause analysis of the Crandall Canyon Mine disaster. CNN, the Associated Press, the Salt Lake Tribune, the Denver Morning News and others filed a joint suit to STOP the investigation until a judge could decide whether the proceedings (the investigation) should be open to the public ([see CNN story](#)).

First, stopping a safety investigation by MSHA so that the press can see if they can be included seems totally outlandish to me. The CNN story makes it sound as if MSHA is covering up its mistakes, and only the spotlight that the press can shine on an investigation will save the day and make MSHA come clean. And if the judge doesn't see it like CNN sees it . . . the Congress should intervene! After all, it is CNN's First Amendment (freedom of speech? - that's their claim) right to have open access to the investigation.

Imagine doing an investigation and having to bring the press along. If you think people (company owners, miners, and even MSHA employees) are reluctant to talk openly about their mistakes now, imagine if what they said was going to be the headlines in the morning paper (or on CNN) the next day.

Fortunately, the judge - U.S. District Judge Dee Benson - had better sense and looked at the Constitution. He wrote:

"Plaintiffs argue that the First Amendment mandates public access to the type of MSHA [Mine Safety and Health Administration] proceeding at issue in this case . . . They point, however, to nothing specific in the Constitution to support their claim."

Good call Judge Benson!

How does CNN play this decision? They said:

"The press does not have the right to get access to the government's investigation into the deadly August accident at the Crandall Canyon mine, a federal judge in Utah ruled Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Dee Benson said there is no constitutional basis for him to make the investigation public."

By the way, the press - just like everyone else - will have access to the COMPLETED investigation. MSHA posts fatality investigation reports on their [web site](#) and has a PRESS conference about major investigations when they are complete. The difference in this case is that the press has decided that they should be allowed to see the internal workings and raw data of the investigation.

To me . . . that seems nuts!

Don't get me wrong. I'm not naive. I know that government regulatory agencies - just like anyone else - don't like to put their mistakes on public display. There may be regulatory shortcoming in the mining permits that were approved for this mine, but the investigation and MSHA should be judged on their openness and honesty after the investigation is complete.

DISCLOSURE:

In the fairness of disclosure . . . MSHA is a TapRooT® User. We also have a former MSHA employee as one of our instructors.

That has nothing to do with my belief that this request is nuts. But if I don't disclose it . . . someone could say I was just trying to protect a client.

However, rather than protecting a client, I think I'm protecting self-critical analysis, investigations, and root cause analysis.

I firmly believe that the press does little to shine light on the root causes of disasters. (For example - Hurricane Katrina.)

The press isn't "bad" . . . it's just that their timeline of interest is way too short to allow anything like root cause analysis. (See [this article](#) I wrote BEFORE any of this came out.)

The press should wait - like everyone else - for the investigation to be finished. Then they can criticize MSHA for not being self-critical enough IF that turns out to be the case.

Otherwise, I believe that total press access to an ongoing, detailed investigation would turn the investigation into a Hollywood press circus. The MSHA investigation of the Crandall Canyon Mine disaster would look more like the OJ Simpson trial.

I'm convinced that a politicized, instant-answer press investigation won't help improve mine safety - or safety anywhere. Their methods and time line just won't allow it.

Do you agree or disagree? Let me know . . .

[Leave a Comment](#)

Thanks!

Mark Paradies
President
System Improvements, Inc.

[Earn CEU Credit and CIH CM Points for TapRoot® Training!](#)

The International Association for Continuing Education and Training has fully certified System Improvements to issue Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) for TapRoot® Training. System Improvements is also certified to issue CIH CM Points:

[2-Day TapRoot® Incident Investigation and Root Cause Analysis](#)

Earn **1.6 CEU credits** or
2 CIH CM Points!

[3-Day TapRoot®/Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting & Root Cause Failure Analysis](#)

Earn **2.4 CEU Credits** or
3 CIH CM Points!

[5-Day TapRoot® Advanced Root Cause Analysis Team Leader Training](#)

Earn **4 CEU Credits** or
5 CIH CM Points!

There is still time to schedule a course this year. Visit our website for more information or to register:

[TapRoot® Course Schedule](#)

We are also able to offer CEU's for the sessions offered during the **Summit in Las Vegas on June 25-27, 2008**. This gives you the opportunity to document the terrific training and facilitation you receive during the Summit and apply those credits toward your professional development training program. By attending all the sessions in your selected track, you will earn **2.0 CEU's** for the Summit.

Additionally, several of the **pre-Summit courses being held on June 23-24, 2008** are also worth CEU's. Both the 2-Day Incident Investigator Course and the 2-day Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting Course are worth **1.6 CEU's**. By attending one of these pre-Summit courses, and then receiving the outstanding training offered during the Summit, you have the opportunity to earn a total of **3.6 CEU's**.

If you need **CM points**, attend the Summit and earn **2.5 points**; attend a 2-day pre-Summit course and earn **2 points** or attend a 1-day pre-Summit course and earn **1 point!**

Not bad for a week's work!

To learn more about the 2008 TapRooT® Summit, visit our website:

[TapRooT® Summit, Las Vegas, NV, June 25-27](#)

[The TapRooT® Course Schedule](#)

Courses are filling up. Reserve your seat today! Use our easy online system, or register by phone at (865) 539-2139.

**** UNITED STATES ** UNITED STATES ** UNITED STATES ****

1-DAY TapRooT®/EQUIFACTOR® EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING & ROOT CAUSE FAILURE ANALYSIS (For previous 2-day/5-day course attendees.)

[NEW ORLEANS, LA - November 30](#)

[LAS VEGAS, NV - December 12](#)

[GALVESTON, TX - January 17](#)

[LAKE CHARLES \(WESTLAKE\), LA - January 25](#)

[HOUSTON, TX - March 28](#)

[CORPUS CHRISTI, TX - April 18](#)

2-DAY TapRooT® INCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS COURSE

[AUSTIN, TX - November 8-9](#)

[NASHVILLE, TN - November 12-13](#)

[NEW ORLEANS, LA - November 28-29](#)

[LAS VEGAS, NV - December 10-11](#)

[GALVESTON, TX - January 15-16](#)

[LAKE CHARLES, LA - January 23-24](#)

[BIRMINGHAM, AL - February 11-12](#)

[CHARLOTTE, NC - February 25-26](#)

[ST. LOUIS, MO - February 28- 29](#)

[BOSTON, MA - March 12- 13](#)

[HOUSTON, TX - March 26- 27](#)

[BATON ROUGE, LA - April 2- 3](#)

[DENVER, CO - April 9-10](#)

[CORPUS CHRISTI - April 16-17](#)

[DALLAS, TX - April 29-30](#)

3-DAY TapRooT®/EQUIFACTOR® EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS COURSE

[NEW ORLEANS, LA - November 28-30](#)

[LAS VEGAS, NV - December 10-12](#)

[GALVESTON, TX - January 15-17](#)

[LAKE CHARLES, LA - January 23-25](#)

[HOUSTON, TX - March 26- 28](#)

[BATON ROUGE, LA - April 2-4](#)

[CORPUS CHRISTI, TX - April 16-18](#)

5-DAY TapRooT® ADVANCED ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS TEAM LEADER TRAINING

[HOUSTON, TX - December 3- 7](#)

[SAN DIEGO, CA - January 28- February 1](#)

[NEW ORLEANS, LA - February 4-8](#)

[CHARLESTON, SC - March 3-7](#)

[GALVESTON, TX - March 10- 14](#)

[SAN ANTONIO, TX - March 31-April 4](#)

[KNOXVILLE, TN - April 21-25](#)

**** CANADA ** CANADA ** CANADA ****

1-DAY TapRooT®/EQUIFACTOR® EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING & ROOT CAUSE FAILURE ANALYSIS (For previous 2-day/5-day course attendees.)

[EDMONTON - November 21](#)

[EDMONTON - February 22](#)

[CALGARY - March 12](#)

2-DAY TapRoot® INCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS COURSE

[EDMONTON - November 19-20](#)

[EDMONTON - February 20-21](#)

[CALGARY - March 10-11](#)

3-DAY TapRoot®/EQUIFACTOR® EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING AND ROOT CAUSE FAILURE ANALYSIS

[EDMONTON - November 19-21](#)

[EDMONTON - February 20-22](#)

[CALGARY - March 10-12](#)

5-DAY TapRoot® ADVANCED ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS TEAM LEADER TRAINING

[CALGARY - December 3-7](#)

[EDMONTON - January 21-25](#)

[HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA - February 25-29](#)

[VANCOUVER, B.C. - March 3-7](#)

[EDMONTON - April 21-25](#)

**** UNITED KINGDOM ** UNITED KINGDOM ** UNITED KINGDOM ****

1-DAY TapRoot®/EQUIFACTOR® EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING & ROOT CAUSE FAILURE ANALYSIS (For previous 2-day/5-day course attendees.)

[ABERDEEN - February 1](#)

2-DAY TapRoot® INCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS COURSE

[ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND - January 30-31](#)

[LEAMINGTON SPA, UK - February 11-12](#)

3-DAY TapRooT®/EQUIFACTOR® EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING AND ROOT CAUSE FAILURE ANALYSIS

[ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND - January 30- February 1](#)

5-DAY TapRooT® ADVANCED ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS TEAM LEADER TRAINING

[LEAMINGTON SPA - November 19-23](#)

[LONDON, ENGLAND - February 4-8](#)

**** WESTERN EUROPE * * WESTERN EUROPE * * WESTERN EUROPE * ***

5-DAY TapRooT® ADVANCED ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS AND TEAM LEADER TRAINING

[AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS - March 10-14](#)

**** NEW ZEALAND * * NEW ZEALAND * * NEW ZEALAND * ***

2-DAY TapRooT® INCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS COURSE

[CHRISTCHURCH - March 31-April 1](#)

3-DAY TapRooT®/EQUIFACTOR® EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING AND ROOT CAUSE FAILURE ANALYSIS COURSE

[CHRISTCHURCH - March 31-April 2](#)

**** AUSTRALIA * * AUSTRALIA * * AUSTRALIA * ***

1-DAY TapRooT®/EQUIFACTOR® EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING & ROOT CAUSE FAILURE ANALYSIS (For previous 2-day/5-day course attendees.)

[KALGOORLIE - November 28](#)

2-DAY TapRooT® INCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS COURSE

[KALGOORLIE - November 26-27](#)

3-DAY TapRoot®/EQUIFACTOR® EQUIPMENT TROUBLESHOOTING AND ROOT CAUSE FAILURE ANALYSIS COURSE

[KALGOORLIE - November 26 - 28](#)

5-DAY TapRoot® ADVANCED ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS AND TEAM LEADER TRAINING

[PERTH - November 19-23](#)

[SINGLETON - February 4-8](#)

[The 2008 TapRoot® Summit](#)

Date: June 25-27, 2008

Location: Las Vegas, NV

Why Attend the Summit? The obvious answer to this question is to learn advanced system improvements. Continuous benchmarking is critical - and you want your company to stand tall among industry peers. At the Summit, you may customize one of 10 tracks with smaller group breakout sessions focused on the latest technology and best practices that meet your specific needs.

Plus, our keynote speakers including **Olympic aerial champion Nikki Stone**, **America's Dream Coach Marcia Weider**, and **former Apache attack helicopter pilot Col. Lt. Ralph Hayles** will provide inspiration and motivation for all attendees.

Learning + Inspiration + Motivation . . . and that's just the beginning!

Conversation is at the root of innovation. Throw 200+ like-minded people in a room, and you're bound to get something genius out of it. When you attend the Summit, your ideas are valued and your opportunity to contribute is unlimited. We plan this event based on your input.

This is a great opportunity to interact with the TapRoot® team. Make the best use of the entire week by scheduling a Pre-Summit course (June 23 and 24, 2008). Choose from 12 full-day courses! Also, there's no denying that the Summit is just plain fun. No one can say that a conference held in Las Vegas is purely a business trip . . . at least not with a straight face. You will enjoy the Apple electronics giveaways at the Summit Reception while you browse exhibits that demonstrate a range of products and services. And don't forget the infamous Summit Cup Golf Tournament, which is already stacking up to be the best ever!

Once upon a time, you landed a good job and stayed there the rest of your life. Now you need a network to keep your options open. With the workplace changing so rapidly and with so many mergers, corporate restructurings, and movement of jobs, the Summit is essential to those who want to be indispensable. You need new, quality ideas to keep your star rising. Attend the Summit to plan your next career move - or find the perfect employee! The sum of all of these reasons isn't as important as the underlying theme and history of this

event. We attend the Summit to save lives and reduce workplace injuries.

Many of you shared with us that the 2007 Summit was so outstanding that you could not imagine how we could make it any better. That was the challenge set before us, but we think we've succeeded.

We'll keep you posted on new developments on our website: [Summit Information](#)

Mark your calendar for the 2008 TapRooT® Summit today - June 25-27 in Las Vegas!

[2-Day TapRooT® Incident Investigator Course and 3-Day Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting Course in Las Vegas! by Ashley Bentz](#)

From the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo to Blue Man Group to the Extraterrestrial Highway to the Spice Girls, there's something for everyone in Las Vegas! That's why we're so excited that there is a 2- Day TapRooT® Incident Investigation and Root Cause Analysis course December 10-11, 2007 and a 3-day TapRooT®/Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting & Root Cause Failure Analysis course December 10-12, 2007, both in Vegas!

Everybody's heard of the famous Las Vegas Strip, Casinos, and Restaurant Row, but what if you've seen all that and are looking for something different? There are plenty of unique and unusual activities as well. The Extraterrestrial Highway, located near Las Vegas and Area 51 (the top-secret government facility), is claimed to be one of the most visited areas in the country and is a must-see for anyone who enjoyed watching "ET" as a kid. For the adventurous or athletic, Death Valley National Park is located just a couple hours away. Did you know that in 1929, no rainfall was recorded for Death Valley, California (www.nps.gov)?

[http:// www.nps.gov/deva/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/deva/index.htm)

<http://www.byways.org/explore/byways/2029/>

[http://www.go-nevada.com/Las- Vegas/Destinations/](http://www.go-nevada.com/Las-Vegas/Destinations/)

There are plenty of exciting events in Las Vegas on December 10-12, the same days as the 3-day TapRooT® Equifactor course, including musical performances and sporting events! Some highlights include the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, Blue Man Group, "Bodies . . . The Exhibition," and the Spice Girls. Explore the links below to learn more!

<http://www.visitlasvegas.com/vegas/play/shows/index.jsp>

[http:// www.nfrexperience.com/](http://www.nfrexperience.com/)

[http:// www.venetian.com/](http://www.venetian.com/)

For more information about the Las Vegas Course and to register, visit:

[Las Vegas Course Info](#)

Ashley Bentz is an Administrative Assistant for System Improvements, Inc. and a University of Tennessee Student.

[2-Day TapRooT® Incident Investigator Course and 3-Day Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting Course in Bogota, Colombia!](#)

Due to customer demand, we will be holding a public 2-Day TapRooT® Incident Investigator course, and a 3-Day Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting course in Bogota, Columbia. These courses will be held on December 5-6 for the 2-Day course, and December 5-7 for the 3-Day course. Course size is limited, so sign up soon. For more information, [contact us!](#)

See you there!

[Root Cause Analysis Blog](#)

Every day we bring you new information! Here are October blog topics:

TapRooT® News

[ELVIS is coming to the TapRooT® Summit!](#)

[Marco Teaches Another 5-Day TapRooT® Advanced Root Cause Analysis Team Leader Training in Mexico](#)

[Last Advanced Root Cause Analysis Course in Europe this Year: Leamington Spa, UK - November 19-23](#)

[TapRooT® Root Cause Analysis Training in Brazil for Petrobras](#)

[ESB Holds a 2-Day TapRooT® Incident Investigation and Root Cause Analysis Course in Ireland](#)

[Class Photo at the 5-Day TapRooT® Advanced Root Cause Analysis Team Leader Training in Amsterdam](#)

[Still a Few Dates Open for On-Site TapRooT® Root Cause Analysis Training](#)

BP Texas City Explosion

[Has BP Found the Root Cause?](#)

[BP Agrees to Plead Guilty to Felony for Texas City Refinery Explosion - US Attorney Says Supervisors, Managers, and Operators May Still Be Charged](#)

Performance Improvements

[5-Whys: Join the discussion](#)

[Very Interesting Article on NASA Air Safety Study](#)

[Filter Clinic in Knoxville, TN - November 28](#)

Healthcare

[Interesting Article on Patient Safety Improvement](#)

[Hospital Response After Accident Causes Anger in Tasmania](#)

Accidents and Lessons Learned

[New Zealand Navy Sailor Dies in Accident](#)

[CSB to Investigate Hydro Maintenance Deaths](#)

[Monday Accident & Lessons Learned: Marine Accident Investigations in the UK](#)

[New Estimates Show 1957 Windscale Nuclear Accident in UK Was Twice as Bad as Previously Believed](#)

[In France, Two Companies & 8 People Face Manslaughter Charges Over 2003 Accident](#)

[Time for Sports Root Cause Analysis? One dead, 302 taken to hospitals, 49 hospitalized in Chicago Marathon Tuesday, October 9th, 2007](#)

[Balloon Accident Kills One - How Much Risk is Acceptable](#)

[BBC Report - Second Accident Near \(LNG\) Jetty at Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire Causes Port Authority to Stop Activity Until Investigation is Complete](#)

[Monday Accident & Lesson Learned: Demolition Worker Killed in Singapore - Brother Says "No One Knows" Who Is To Blame](#)

[Aircraft Operators Ask for Improved Root Cause Analysis of Failure](#)

[Mine Accident in South Africa Kills One, Closes Mine](#)

[Bad Push-Back Grounds Flight in Edinburgh, Scotland](#)

[Monday Accident & Lessons Learned: Air Force Nuclear Weapon "Incident" Shows that SPAC Not Used Can Happen Anywhere When Enforcement is Weak](#)

[UK Rail Accident Investigation Branch Releases HGV Channel Tunnel Fire Investigation Report](#)

[Accident at Ford Wayne Stamping & Assembly Plant Kills One](#)

[Jousting Accident Kills One](#)

[PEMEX - Oil Rig Damaged by Collision in Storm](#)

[Missed Opportunities to Stop Contamination Cause Bankruptcy at Topps Meat](#)

[UK Rail Accident Investigation Board Publishes an Investigation Report on the Derailment at Birmingham Snow Hill](#)

[PEMEX - 18 Killed - 7 Missing After Oil Rig Damaged by Collision in Storm](#)

[Two Miners Die in Explosion at Marula Platinum Mine in South Africa](#)

[NTSB Investigation of Predator Crash Results in 16 Recommendations](#)

[Five dead, six injured, and one missing after scaffolding collapse in Germany](#)

[NTSB Still Investigating Minneapolis Bridge Collapse](#)

[More Discussion on Another Blog About USS Hampton Incident](#)

[Another Note on the USS Hampton Incident](#)

[Monday Accidents & Lessons Learned: Third Accident in 2 Months - When is an Accident a Repeat Failure?](#)

[CSB Investigators Deploying to Barton Solvents Fire in Des Moines, Iowa](#)

[Another interesting Dash-8 Crash Video](#)

[And One More Dash-8 Crash](#)

[And Then You Get People Making Jokes About the SAS Crash](#)

[UK Rail Accident Investigation Board Annual Report - 2007](#)

[Mine Accident Survivor Faces Blame and Potential Criminal Prosecution](#)

[Four Dead After Ukraine Coal Mine Accident](#)

[NASA has incidents to investigate aboard the space station as maintenance and construction problems multiply](#)

[Accident and Complaint Lead to \\$28,700 Fine at Food Packaging Plant in Oregon](#)

[Lucky To be Alive](#)

[Lucky to be Alive II](#)

[Gas Line Explosion in Paris](#)

[More on PEMEX Drilling Rig Accident That Left 21 Dead](#)

[2 Dead, 2 Injured in South Africa Gold Mine Accident](#)

Job Postings

[Job Opening - Hitachi Global Storage Technologies - HR Professional - Needs Root Cause Analysis Skills](#)

[Job Opening - GE Looking for a Lead Engineer - Fleet Support with TapRoot® Root Cause Analysis Skills Thursday, October 11th, 2007](#)

[Job Opening - Nottinghamshire, France - Field Engineer After Sales with Skills Analyzing the Root Causes of Electrical Failures Friday, October 12th, 2007](#)

[Job Opening - Baton Rouge, LA - Engineers for Operations & Maintenance Support - Need Root Cause Analysis Skills](#)

[Job Opening - Georgia Pacific - Maintenance Leader - Cedar Springs, Georgia - Must Have Root Cause Analysis and Troubleshooting Skills](#)

[Job Opening: Manager Quality Assurance / Quality Control in Medical Devie Industry - Needs Root Case Analysis Skills](#)

[Job Opening - Augusta, GA - Senior Mechanical Design Engineer with Root Cause Analysis Skills](#)

[Job Opening - UK - Investigation Engineer \(Root Cause Analysis\) West Midlands Wolverhpton Aerospace](#)

[Job Opening - GE - Saudi Arabia - Sourcing Quality Engineer - Mechanical Systems - Needs Root Cause Analysis Skills](#)

Friday Jokes

[A Delivery Person's Nightmare!](#)

[Friday Joke: New Cell Phones Pose Safety Hazards](#)

[I Getta Kick Outta You](#)

[That Takes the Cake!](#)

[Creative Safety Gear](#)

[Equifactor® and FMEA](#)

A Failure Mode Effect Analysis (FMEA) is used to determine the relative risks of a failure causing a specific effect, and then to determine the priority of mitigating that particular failure mode. It is used as a risk management tool to help determine where resources should most efficiently be spent. Although usually used as a proactive tool, it can be applied after an accident during a root cause analysis to help determine what failure modes could have caused the effect seen.

One of the very first steps in conducting an FMEA is to know what failure modes are available. You must know how the piece of equipment or the process can fail. Where do you get this information? There are several sources that are available:

- * System Experts at your facility
- * Equipment technical manuals
- * ISO standards (ISO-9000, QS-9000, ISO-16949, Mil-Std-1629A, etc.)
- * Equipment troubleshooting tables

Another great source of information is the Equifactor® troubleshooting section of the TapRoot® Software. For example, take a look through the Conveyor Belt tables, and start with the Possible Causes of failures. This can lead you to failure modes that you may not have initially considered, including the causes of those modes. By combining Equifactor® with other sources of information, you can ensure that you have a complete list of possible problems to use during the FMEA process.

If you are interested in learning more about Equifactor®, check out our Course Calendar:

[3-Day TapRoot®/Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting & Root Cause Failure Analysis](#)

[1-Day TapRoot®/Equifactor® Equipment Troubleshooting & Root Cause Failure Analysis](#)

[Top Tips from Summit Attendees!](#)

2007 Summit attendees share ideas from the Summit for an investigations oversight department. Here is this month's tip:

"Have the investigations oversight department use the output of the investigations to provide management with good trending to show where progress is being made and where focused efforts need to be performed to fix recurring root causes with the largest adverse impact on the organization (. . . there are many ways to evaluate the criteria). The same oversight department would identify investigator weaknesses that need to be fixed and summarized plus prioritize where the largest return would be derived from, and provide input to training (or hold training) on topics to improve knowledge and skills for investigators. This would be done about twice per year. The format and delivery of the training is according to the needs and efficiency in the presentation."

For 2008 Summit information, visit our website:

[Summit Website](#)

[Six Sailors Aboard USS Hampton Punished for Falsifying Nuclear Reactor Chemistry Records](#)

How do six sailors give the entire Nuclear Navy a black eye? Simple . . . falsify the results of required chemistry checks for a nuclear reactor. And do it not just once or twice . . . but for an entire month.

The negative press reports appeared all over:

[The Daily Press](#)

[MSNBC](#)

[Fox News](#)

[Forbes.com](#)

[Seattle Times](#)

I spent 7 years in the Nuclear Navy (back in the late 70's and early 80's). I find the idea of not sampling the reactor chemistry for a month . . . amazing! Admiral Rickover is probably spinning in his grave!

From the story it sounds like they were somehow caught during their ORSE (Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam). Surely this resulted in a failed ORSE. The Commanding Officer and Engineer will be looking for new jobs (probably outside the Navy - their naval careers are ruined).

Once again, if lax enforcement of standards (especially sampling of reactor chemistry) can happen in the Nuclear Navy . . . poor enforcement of SPAC can happen anywhere.

What are you doing to enforce important policies?

Are you just using late-uncertain-negatives?

Have you tried soon-certain-positives?

If you don't know what I'm talking about, you should consider attending the 5-Day TapRooT® Advanced Root Cause Analysis Team Leader Training. It has a section on changing behavior that will teach you what you need to know.

For course information, dates/locations, and registration, see the:

[TapRooT® Course Schedule](#)

And for more information on this story, see the TapRooT® blog:

[Submarine Commanding Officer Fired After Falsified Chemistry Records Discovered](#)

[OSHA Top 10 Hazards List](#)

Each year OSHA publishes a list of the top 10 hazards by the violations that were cited by

their inspectors.

Here is the 2007 (yes - just 11 months of data) list:

1. Scaffolding

Regulation: 1926.451

Violations: 7,592

2. Hazard Communication

Regulation: 1910.1200

Violations: 5,099

3. Fall Protection

Regulation: 1926.501

Violations: 5,095

4. Respiratory Protection

Regulation: 1910.134

Violations: 3,145

5. Lockout/Tagout

Regulation: 1910.147

Violations: 2,973

6. Powered Industrial Trucks

Regulation: 1910.178

Violations: 2,577

7. Electrical - Wiring

Regulation: 1910.305

Violations: 2,412

8. Ladders

Regulation: 1926.1053

Violations: 2,113

9. Machine Guarding

Regulation: 1910.212

Violations: 2,054

10. Electrical - General

Regulations: 1910.303

Violations: 1,848

Each year I wonder . . . are these the top 10 things that industry needs to worry about or just the top 10 things that OSHA inspectors look for?

[Facing the Ethics Crisis by George Burk](#)

Ethics: *The discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation; a set of moral principles or values; the principles of conduct governing an individual or a group. Syn; moral; ant: unethical.*

It appears from newspaper and television reports the number of ethics violations just keeps growing. From corporate scandals to steroids in sports to local and national political scandals and transgressions, wrongdoing seems to be in the news almost daily. But . . . is it really any worse than expected or what's happened the past 10 or 20 years?

**"Be nice to people on your way up because you meet them on the way down."
Jimmy Durante, entertainer**

Patricia Harned, president of the Washington, D.C.- based Ethics Resource Center, thinks so.

"We are in an ethics crisis," Harned said. "Scandal is the new norm. People are not surprised to see it in the news each day. Ethics is defined more by its absence than by its presence these days."

Harned bases her findings from her group's research. More than half--52%-- of employees say they've seen acts that violate their standards or the law. That's despite more firms starting ethics programs, Harned said. New ethics programs haven't led to improvement partly because organizations tend to focus on the near term, Harned said. "We have very short attention spans," she said. "Ethics is more of a strategic (long-term) equation."

This era is currently marked by what Tim Irwin, an Atlanta based corporate psychologist, calls moral relativism. The difference between right and wrong used to be clearer, he said. There are issues in life that are black and white and not what feels good at the time or fits a particular political or social "feel good" agenda. "Now, what's right or wrong for you might not be the same for me," he said. "People rationalize their behavior."

**"We must exchange the philosophy of excuse for the philosophy of responsibility."
Barbara Jordan , legislator**

My parents taught and showed me ethical behavior at an early age. I knew early in my development as a young man the difference between right and wrong and that life's about choices and consequences. Ethics was also taught in my grade school and high school, not only in civics classes, but also in the behavior our teachers and administrators expected from us. Ethical behavior really begins at home. If parents aren't willing to take the time and effort to talk about ethical behavior as part of a family's growth and nurturing and if it's not continuously reinforced through words, actions and deeds, it will never be understood and lived in the business world.

**"One of the things my parents have taught me is never listen to other people's expectations. You should live your own life and live up to your own expectations."
Tiger Woods, golfer**

I've been invited to speak at and participate as a case study facilitator two times at the *Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership* at United States Naval Academy. The program is *Capstone Character Excellence Program* and is a required course for all senior Midshipmen at the Academy. It's basic mission and goals deal with ethical behavior, character development and leadership expected of future Naval Officers. The program is a 'Capstone'

to the various leadership and character development courses the Midshipmen have experienced during their four years at the Naval Academy. I've been invited back for my third visit, 30 January and 2 February 08. It is an honor and privilege for me and I'm inspired by the Midshipmen, the active duty Navy and civilian staff and faculty. These young people and their leaders get "it" and got "it!" For more information about the program, visit:

www.usna.edu/ethics/capstone/capstonetopics.htm.

"Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."

John Wooden, basketball coach

Harned, people I know, my interaction with the Midshipmen and the faculty at the Naval Academy and my own thoughts and hopes, believe the lack of ethical behavior and leadership can be fixed **if** (and it's a BIG "if") individuals and leaders make a conscious, objective, "honest to God" effort to change.

It certainly appears that many people and top officials see themselves as being committed to ethical behavior. But surveys, like the one mentioned earlier, show that those under them don't see them the same way. The reason is they're not being overt about it, Harned said. And that's what's crucial in an ethical environment. Leaders must build trust and one way to accomplish that is by making your thinking visible to others. Be open, 'vulnerable,' and human and show that you care.

In the 22 October 2007 edition of the *Arizona Republic* newspaper (pageA13), there was an article about Governor-elect Bobby Jindal of Louisiana. In one of his first interviews, he pressed ahead with his campaign pledge, saying that one of his first acts will be to call a special legislative session to reform ethics laws. "I think we're setting the bar too low when we say, 'Look, isn't it great that we haven't had a statewide elected official go to jail recently?'" Jindal said. He wants legislators to create state laws requiring legislators to disclose their sources of income and their assets and to bar family members from doing business with the state. He further stated that Louisiana's ethics laws lag too far behind other states' requirements.

"If you can't get rid of the skeleton in your closet, you'd best teach it to dance."

George Bernard Shaw, playwright

A few other steps that make ethics programs effective:

Set the right tone. Harned and other experts say that misconduct is reduced by up to 50% when the top leaders, at home and in the organization, genuinely commit and enroll to being ethical. And . . . the top means any parent, preferably both, and any leader. A parent, teacher, squad, platoon or company commander, branch manager or supervisor gives more ethical cues than the chief executive. The parent(s) **are** the family's chief executives. That's where the rubber meets the road every day.

"Honey, if a man has no integrity, he's naked. I don't mean clothing for his body but clothing for his soul."

Willa C. Burk, Mom

Hold people accountable. Build performance standards to measure ethical conduct. "That," Harned said, "leads to a rise in reporting, and people stay."

Keep (and Nail) your commitments. Do what you say your going to do. It's that simple! Said another way (I've said it many times before here) "walk the talk." Have your actions match your words. "Put your money where your mouth is." There are many more clichés and all of them are true. After organizations (and parents) survey employees (and their children) they must commit and enroll to helping the employees and their children solve the issues they've identified. If they don't, then what they surveyed won't matter to anyone.

Make little things count. One of Irwin's client firms gives job applicants a quick integrity test. It asks what the applicant's college grade-point average was. A major discrepancy indicated he lied. If an applicant will lie about a small thing, he'll likely lie about something bigger. Perhaps no one ever held him accountable before and lying became a way of life. When you lie long enough, your mind begins to believe it's the truth.

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to worry about what you tell people."
Virginia Woolf, writer

It's not just compliance. Many organizations put in ethics programs just for some type of regulatory compliance . . . to "fill a square." "The focus," Harned says, "is on making sure a box is checked."

Try to change an organization and family's culture. Ultimately, Irwin says, it comes down to taking responsibility for your choices, your actions and for yourself. "When it's all said and done, that's the only thing that's going to work," Irwin said. It all begins and ends with us!

Be honest and dependable; Take responsibility. Otherwise, nothing else will really matter.

Captain George Burk, USAF (Ret) is a plane crash & burn survivor. For more information about this speaker, author and writer visit his website at: www.georgeburk.com or contact him at: 1-800-769-8568

[Q&A Column: Where Does the Accident Pyramid Come From?](#)

Mark Paradies answers:

Earlier this year, someone wrote me with the question, "Where does the accident pyramid come from?" I thought that others might be interested, so I posted the answer on the TapRooT® blog: [Where Does the Accident Pyramid Come From?](#)

[And the Root Cause Is?](#)

Find the answer on the: [TapRooT® Blog](#)

Dear Readers:

Please feel free to pass this e-Newsletter along to other individuals interested in TapRoot® by clicking on the "Forward email" link at the end of this newsletter.

Please note that if you are new to this e-Newsletter, I probably added you because I thought that you would like to keep up with the latest TapRoot® and root cause analysis information or you attended a TapRoot® Course.

If you know others who would like to get this information first hand, e-mail me their e-mail address. I'll add them to the distribution.

When your e-mail address changes - be sure to let me know by clicking the "Update Profile/Email Address" link at the end of this newsletter. I don't want to lose you!

If you would like to STOP receiving this e-Newsletter - just click on the "Safe Unsubscribe" link at the end of this newsletter.

By the way, we do not sell or share your contact information or e-mail addresses. Oh, and this is ****BCBSTAuthorizedemail**** (not dreaded S-P-A-M).

The opinions and information contained in this newsletter are provided in the spirit of cooperation and continued learning. They do not represent any corporation's views. Use the information to help you form your opinions but all risk based on your use of this information is assumed by you and your company.

That's all for this month. Good luck at improving performance!

Mark Paradies, President
System Improvements, Inc.

email: info@taproot.com

phone: 865-539-2139

web: <http://www.taproot.com>

[Forward email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to barbara@taproot.com, by info@taproot.com
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



System Improvements, Inc. | 238 S. Peters Road | Suite 301 | Knoxville | TN | 37923