

A HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK EDUCATION WEB PAGE

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/education/>

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Purpose of poster

To raise awareness of a web page for health and safety risk education that will support faculty in providing learning experiences for students that integrate into the design process the wider implications of their activities as professional engineers in society (CDIO Standard 7). Furthermore to give interested parties the opportunity to influence the content and format of the web page.

The need

Risk is an inherent part of human life. However, how we deal with risk is based largely on common sense, experience and instinct. When complex, the assessment of risk needs to be formalised to ensure that the potential risks are identified and understood before they lead to personal and societal catastrophes such as those shown in figure 1. Recent research has shown that the quality of risk education is variable and the resources available, especially within Higher Education are sketchy and not freely available.



Figure 1. Personal and societal catastrophes

Aims and objectives

A project is underway to make the existing risk education webpage of the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) more relevant to Higher Education courses for 'safety critical professionals', particularly engineers. When complete the web page will provide a hub for:

- Showcasing best practice
- Sharing and developing resources
- Communication between stakeholders in Higher Education

The web-page will recognize the invaluable contribution that engineers make to the management of health and safety risk as illustrated in figure 2.



Figure 2. Example of engineers' contribution to risk management

Work completed so far

Immediate changes were made to the existing webpage, to make current best practice and initiatives in Mechanical and Civil Engineering more visible. The focus of the webpage is to provide a useful teaching toolkit of practical solutions in the form of presentations, activities, and assessments etc., which faculty can integrate into existing syllabus content.

The Health and Safety laboratory with the support of the UK Health and Safety Executive has developed a basic outline in terms of structure and content. The new risk education homepage will have two options for users:

- A) Information on Risk Education for Secondary and Further Education;
- B) Information on Risk Education for Higher Education Institutions (HEI).

The HEI web pages will be split into four sections:

- **NEED FOR IT:** The initial section will explain the importance of integrating risk education into the syllabus.
- **DELIVERING IT:** Will provide links to resources, in a variety of formats including video, powepoint presentations and briefing notes, to help support the delivery of risk education.
- **KEEPING UP WITH IT:** Will detail forthcoming projects, conferences and training courses relevant to risk education.
- **GETTING INVOLVED IN IT:** Will invite contributions/feedback on content.

For the Secondary and Further Education the existing WebPages will be revamped and updated, but the structure will essentially remain the same.

Planned and ongoing work

The detail and content for the ‘delivering it’ section will be developed in consultation with HEI’s as the aim is to carefully align it to the general needs of HEI’s. Materials relate to the CDIO syllabus items 2.5 “Professional Skills and Attitudes”, 4.1 “External and Societal Context” and to some extent will assist in the development of 3. “Interpersonal Skills” and 2.3 “Systems Thinking”. A possible format will be to organise the different teaching resources according to topic areas such as:

- Introduction to basic concepts of risk
- Personal hazard awareness
- Professional responsibilities
- Managing risk in the design process
- Tool and techniques for risk assessment and risk reduction

If you wish to be included in the ongoing telephone interviews or questionnaires about the webpage, or would like to provide more general feedback, then please contact:

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