

#### The Real World

We endeavor to do the best we can as safety engineers. Many times we wish we could do more; however, we are limited by budgetary constraints. HCRQ has heard many times from its clients that they are being pressured to perform their work more efficiently (i.e., for less cost).

We thought it would be interesting for you to hear what realities exist elsewhere.

HCRQ has been fortunate to be able to interface with a large number of organizations and most of the safety-critical sectors. This has awarded us the opportunity to poll organizations regarding their approaches to system and software safety assurance.

In a perfect world we might have a system safety group, a software safety group, a reliability group, perhaps a human factors group. This is very rare. Sometimes there is no one dedicated to system safety. Often system safety is not organizationally independent of system engineering. Many times, the engineer. Often, there is no one we would call a software safety engineer.

Other examples abound. There are projects that have reached PDR with multiple subcontractors where no safety documentation has been produced and no budget allocated to safety. No common cause analyses are conducted. For larger systems, no

credible safety process audit or product audit has been performed. Only qualitative risk assessments have been done. No safety case is prepared. No requirements analysis has been undertaken. Sometimes, no safety analyses are performed—ever.

Eye-opening isn't it?

#### Pending Webinar

Operating & Support Hazard Analysis

November 19

Click on "Scheduled Courses" using the link at the bottom of any of our web pages.

#### Software Safety Course

Our 3-day course in Williamsburg is scheduled for December 1-3.



#### With Our Compliments

For those of you who are considering our 3 or 5-day courses, check out <http://www.hcrq.com/excellence.html>.

#### Probability of Bird Strikes?

The life of a system safety engineer can indeed be interesting. The safety hat that you wear sometimes seems all-encompassing.

Recently, in reference to Particular Risks Analysis, we were asked how to compute the probability of bird strikes. Sometimes we are asked about facility safety analysis. Then there is battery hazard analysis. How about the color for a silent alarm strip? A graph of touch potential versus time. Acceptable closing force for doors. The MMEL for UAVs. Severity definitions for radiation hazards. The standard for warning labels. Acceptable concentrations of hazardous substances.

Some questions have no answers.

Some of us have been working in system safety for many years having "done it all" several times over. These types of questions help keep things interesting for us.

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