42nd Annual State Construction Conference

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Prevention through Design

Michael Behm, PhD CSP
East Carolina University
College of Engineering and Technology
“Too often we’re focused on what a worker who falls and dies did or didn’t do, when we should be looking at what supervisors, managers, facility owners, or engineers did to anticipate the risk and prevent that outcome”
• What do you see?

• Would you design something differently?

• What?
• Is it “foreseeable” if you were involved in the design and placement of the HVAC equipment?

• Or is it just foreseeable now because you’re in a discussion on safe design?
My Journey in Safe Design...
CAPTAIN HINDSIGHT

Never saves people, just tells what should have been
Theoretical Ability to Influence Safety

- Conceptual
- Detailed Engineering / Design
- Procurement
- Construction

Start Date

End Date

2023 State Construction Conference
Theoretical Ability to Influence Safety

Ability to Identify Hazards and Risk

Conceptual

Detailed Engineering / Design

Procurement

Construction

Start-up

Start Date

Project schedule

End Date

Low Ability

High Ability
A Global Look at PtD

Regulations  Practice  Examples  Research
No Worries...
We can fix things and make them all good...

How a lack of Anticipation and Foreseeability can get you into trouble
Does Design Matter?

A brief mention of its role in accidents
Safe Design: A Source for Innovation and Creativity
Source: Culvenor, J. 2006.
Petrol Station Construction Example
An opportunity for creativity

• “The results from the design of the telescoping canopy have been very encouraging; the total man hours required to work at height on canopy installations has been reduced by 95 per cent, almost eliminating the need to have workers exposed to risks associated with such work.

• The telescopic column canopy has also reduced the critical path of a construction timeline of a site by 7 to 10 days on average.”
Obvious after the creative effort

• The obvious path at the start
  • Anchor points, horizontal lifeline, communicate the fall hazard.
  • More cost, better safety

• The obvious way after creative effort
  • After finding out the things we didn’t know
  • Safer, faster, cheaper
The example as an innovation

• Technological change driven by...

• Organizational lateral thinking
  • Beyond compliance view
  • Market differentiation
  • “Safety in design is one area where we can use safety to gain a market edge and differentiate ourselves from our competitors”.
Schindler’s Robotic Installation System for Elevators
Another example if we have time...

If not skip 4 slides
How can we maintain this green wall?
How can we maintain this green wall?

• Aerial lift
• Ladders
• Scaffolding
• Gondola like system
• Workers on stilts
• It’s maintenance free!
Easy and safe worker access allows the green wall to be easily maintained at any time and without much planning.
“French doors” allow the greenery to come to the worker. The camouflaged guardrail is aesthetically pleasing and is a passive control that allows workers to safely maintain and replace the vegetation without much planning.
What should we do?
Section 403  Owner Review

The owning agency or institution of a capital project may not be a regulatory Agency, but their review and approval is the most important in the process. The public funds were appropriated to the owning Agency for facilities to support a program or service provided by the State or Community College. It is important that the Owner approve all plans submitted prior to their transmittal to the State Construction Office and other review entity.

The Owner is the most familiar with the program, staff, spaces and overall operation, and needs to ensure that the design, materials, equipment and systems meet those needs and that the project is within the scope and funds established by the appropriation or budget.

The Facilities Management department of each owning agency or institution must, by State Building Commission Rules, be a major participant in the design, review and approval of any capital project to ensure that not only the scope and program are addressed, but that the maintenance, serviceability, life safety and environmental support systems operate safely, effectively and efficiently over the life of the building.

The Capital Projects Coordinator (CPC) shall be responsible for ensuring that facilities maintenance personnel are fully involved in the review and input provided to the Designer. Their comments should also be included with the Owner’s review and approval letter to the State Construction.
Possible strategies for State

- Examples showed were industry specific innovations
- CHAIR - Recommends design charettes to consider construction, operations and maintenance health and safety at about 30% and 60% design completion. Uses keywords for brainstorming
- I suggest you begin with a focus on operations and maintenance – involve workers
- Build up your knowledge and your knowledge database
Parting points

**Bad safe design forces a “check box” mentality.**

Don’t pretend you can write everything down about safe design.

It’s NOT designing to rules and specifications.

It’s about a mindset of the design team about what safety in design means.

But being creative.

Finding out what we don’t know.
Thank you

Michael Behm, PhD CSP
behmm@ecu.edu