IS THERE ONE SAFETY CULTURE?

Gail Hall, Boston College
Alt. Title: Naming the Dead Cat in the Middle of the Table
ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE
UNIVERSITY CULTURE
TECHNOLOGY CULTURE

SAFETY CULTURE
Organization

* Mission and Values
* Resources
* Hierarchy
* Risk Tolerance
* Educational Values
* University “Culture”
Education vs. Training

* Access to Undergraduate Classes
* Undergraduate Research Students
* Grad Students as Mentors
* Lab Specific Safety Training
Naming the dead cat again

* Different education and experience
* Different attitudes about safety
* Different ways of communicating
* Different cultural expectations
How Do You Feel?

What if I can't do this?
What if everyone hates me?
What if I faint?
HELLO
my name is
Anxiety
Risk Assessment & Mitigation
Risk = Likelihood X Severity

- How likely is it that “X” will happen?
- How bad will it be if “X” happens?

“Real Life” Examples
- Weather predictions and preparations
- Earthquake-proof lab design
- Fire
- Chemical Exposure
Lab Hazards

Types of Hazards
* Chemicals
* Processes/equipment
* Physical - temperature, pressure
* Mechanical

Severity
* “None”
* Broken Glass
* Small Spill
* Large Spill
* Reaction out of control
* Small Fire
* Significant Fire
* Injury
* Loss of Life
The Biggest Hazard... YOU!

- FATIGUE
- MINDLESSNESS/ROUTINE*
- DISTRACTIONS
- ERRORS
- LACK OF PREPARATION
- EAR BUDS
- NO PPE

- PAY ATTENTION
- MAINTAIN AWARENESS
- SLEEP/BREAKS
- MANAGE YOUR HEALTH
- THINK!!!
- WEAR PPE EVERY TIME
Lab Reference Book (Wiki?)

* Lab specific / Department Specific
* Maps
* SOPs
* References
* Risk Assessment
Chemical Hygiene Committee

* Working Group
* Lab Safety Contacts
Conclusion

Is “Safety Culture” the new standard?

Is the Lab Standard still THE Standard?

Permission to Achieve Results Outside THE Standard?

Writing a Better “Lab Standard”