



THREE PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY
10016-5991
www.aiche.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cynthia F. Mascone
(646) 495-1345
cynfm@aiche.org

AICHE

GENERAL INQUIRIES
1-800-AICHEM
(1-800-242-4363)

**SENIOR
EDITOR**

Joanna Ziemniewski
(646) 495-1347
joziz@aiche.org

**ASSISTANT
EDITORS**

Corrie D. Emery
(646) 495-1346
corrie@cep.aiche.org
Matt McKeon Slattery
(646) 495-1349
mattm@aiche.org

CONTRIBUTORS

T. Kevin Swift
kevin_swift@americanchemistry.com
Tara M. Mahon
memahon135@aol.com
Roy Semmer
roysemmer@fics.com

**PRODUCTION
COORDINATOR**

Karen Simpson
(646) 495-1346
kals@aiche.org

ART DIRECTOR

Paula Angerita
(646) 495-1346
paula@cep.aiche.org

Cynthia F. Mascone
Editor-in-Chief

As a chemical engineer, I was appalled when I learned the circumstances surrounding my car being totaled and some of the root causes of the incident: inadequate operator training on the procedures and tools involved in performing a job; inadequate supervision of a trainee; inadequate fire-extinguishing equipment; inadequate training on the proper way to put out a gasoline fire ... All of these were especially true because the task was an inherently unsafe process. That incident came to mind when I reflected on this issue's emphasis on process safety. We're concentrating on process safety because this month marks the 25th anniversary of the toxic release in Bhopal, India, which killed more than 3,000 people and injured more than 20,000. Shortly after that, 17 industry executives requested AICHE launch a major initiative to improve the practices of process safety. In 1985, the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) was established to advance state-of-the-art process safety technology and management practices to serve as a premier resource for information on process safety and to foster process safety in engineering and science education and to promote process safety as a key industry value. The article "Remembering the Past to Create a Safer Future" (pp. 20-21) is off a new contribution by CCPS to CEP, a quarterly column called Spotlight on Safety. In it, Roxy Schneider recalls the Bhopal incident and an explosion at a chemical plant in Mablethorpe, U.K., ten years earlier. She points out "lessons learned from all process safety incidents are vitally important to the creation and implementation of effective and sustainable process safety programs." CCPS offers numerous resources for practicing engineers and students to learn about process safety, including books, courses, conferences, and more; information, go to www.aiche.org/ccps. This month's Process Safety Person (p. 19) also reflects on the Bhopal tragedy, and offers suggestions to help manufacturing personnel prevent similar reactive-chemistry incidents. In another article on process safety in this issue, "Should Your Organization Warn Warning Flags?" (pp. 22-26), Ian Sutton discusses the role of a company's safety culture in manufacturing. He explains six indicators — warning flags — that identify an organization to impending safety problems. I wish there had been a warning flag flying over that repair shop, and I hope the company learned from the incident and changed its facility designs, work practices, and training programs.

