

What Went Wrong: case Histories of Process Plant Disasters and How They Could Have Been Avoided, 5th Edition

Trevor Kletz, Elsevier, Oxford, U.K., 704 pages, \$90, June 2009, ISBN 13: 978-1-85617-531-9

When it was first published in 1985, “What Went Wrong” woke up many people involved in process safety. This fifth edition updates earlier volumes with reports on recent incidents, and incorporates the author’s 1999 companion book, “Still Going Wrong,” to create a complete analysis of the design, operational, and managerial causes of process plant accidents.

In the introduction, the author points out that, in the history of safety in the process industries, many incidents are repeated. People move on. Lessons learned are forgotten. This book was written to keep the memories alive.

The author warns against the “can’t happen here” attitude, which is often based on the belief that the existence of safety