

JULY 2010

In June 2010 edition of IRPC/IBN Risk Control Flash, we published the first batch of lessons learnt from a number of plant losses in several parts of the world. Here is second batch of lessons culled from Commissions of Enquiries.

## LESSONS LEARNT FROM PREVIOUS PLANT LOSSES

### SECOND BATCH



- **Failure of Communication:** A number of plant incidents occurred due to either lack of communication or inappropriate communication amongst plant personnel
- **Failure to identify correct part on which work is to be done:** Opening or closing of wrong valves, discharging of chemical into wrong tank are two basic examples.
- **Failure to wear personal protective clothing:** Several plants and construction personnel had sustained severe injuries on their head, eyes, hand, foot etc including fatalities thereof.
- **Failure of Instrumentation:** This is self-explanatory and pinpoints the importance of control systems against undesirable level of operating parameters.
- **Decision-making under operational stress:** Operational stress induced by several factors e.g. shortage of manpower; frequent plant breakdown could impair operators' decision making to promptly respond to an emergency.
- **Failure of Regulatory Authority:** Deficiency of authorities to properly perform their roles e.g. licensing, inspection, monitoring, etc have been found to be proximate cause of some plant disasters.
- **Limitation of Exposure of personnel:** The siting of control room in close proximity of hazardous plant units and excessive man-hours by plant personnel in hazardous operating conditions over a long period of time are typical examples.
- **Security and control of access to plant.**