

### The System Safety Society

Professionals Dedicated to the Safety of Systems, Products & Services

President: Tony Zenga <u>tzenga@cmtigroup.com</u>
Vice President: Sue Cox <u>Sue.Cox@safetywright.com</u>
Treasurer: Dr. Kai Deng Kai.Deng@navcanada.ca

Secretary: Dr. 'Panesar-Walawege,

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Event Coordinator: Tony Zenga <u>tzenga@cmtigroup.com</u>



## **CANADA CHAPTER**

# Title: Willful Myopia: Cognitive Dissonance and Human Error at the Organizational Level"

Please join us on **Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 PM** for an International System Safety Society Presentation event featuring Mr. Graham Creedy who will present "**Willful Myopia: Cognitive Dissonance and Human Error at the Organizational Level**".

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Graham Creedy has long been fascinated by how major accidents and unplanned events continue to happen, despite the supposed existence of systems designed expressly to prevent them. In this presentation he draws on over five decades of experience and observation from a variety of backgrounds to show some of the inherent vulnerabilities in such systems under real-life conditions, and how these lead to human error in decision-making at all levels of an organization. He examines the interface between risk assessment and risk management, and the need to understand motive as the driving force behind risk management decisions. Drawing on insights from Reason, Rasmussen, Decker, Woods, Hollnagel, Leveson and others, he covers some of the underlying theories and the role these play in influencing motives and thus decisions on risk control, and how developments such as artificial intelligence (AI) and electronic communications may be making matters worse. Symptoms of human error at the organizational level are discussed, together with some practical defences that can increase the odds of management success.

### **ABOUT GRAHAM**



Mr. Graham Creedy is a chemical engineer and chemist who spent the first half of his career in the chemical industry, operating plants for some of the world's leading multinational companies. He then provided consulting guidance to a variety of organizations in the private and public sectors, most notably through his role as Senior Manager, Responsible Care for the Canadian Chemical Producers' Association (now the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada), a position from which he retired in 2009. He is a registered professional engineer in Ontario and a Fellow of both the Chemical and Engineering Institutes of Canada, and teaches risk management at the University of Ottawa, to pass on some of his knowledge to the younger generation of engineers.



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