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Open Letter to those Not Yet Fatally Injured Workers

by Alan D Quilley CRSP

This is a reprint of one of Alan's most popular and thought provoking articles.

It's again that time of year when most Workers' Compensation Boards release their annual injury and fatality statistical reports for the previous year. This year is no different and again we're seeing yet another batch of annual reports telling us that nothing significantly different has happened to our injury and illness numbers. The worst part of reading these reports is knowing that while we read them, we're again replicating the carnage. Again this year, many of our fellow workers will die because of their work. Rather than just sigh and ask rhetorically "oh well...what can I do about it?" I'd like to try something different.

I'm personally doing a great deal to change this annual fatality number. Over the past year I've spoken to many groups both large and small trying to develop as much dissatisfaction with the current state of safety management as I can. The numbers of folks that are joining my uneasiness with the lack of results for our efforts is growing. It's going to take a great number of us all getting dissatisfied with these results to move us collectively into a different action.

On behalf of those of us who really care that this number of fatally injured workers hasn't changed a great deal over the last two decades, I'm writing an open letter to those who are going to die this year. Although at first, I must admit, I found the idea a bit morbid, I think perhaps it may just shake someone off of their "I can't do anything" spot. If we all were to increase our diligence to help our fellow workers become safer and healthier, then perhaps we'll collectively make a difference. Feel free to share this letter with the people you work with. Perhaps it will make them think about what they can do to change this terrible outcome.

I thought I'd start by offering an apology to the not yet fatally injured workers who are going to die this year unless we do something differently. This is only one of the things I'm going to do differently over this next year...how about YOU?

Contact Us!

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Dear “Not Yet Fatally Injured Worker”

I'd like to sincerely say to you that I'm very sorry that you are going to die this year. Although we don't know exactly which of you reading this will die, we do know that some of you will die in a work related traffic accident. We know that some will die of an industrial disease and that some of you will be fatally injured in a dramatic workplace incident like a fall or explosion. Here's what your co-workers would say to you after you're gone, so I thought you should hear it now. Hopefully reading this letter may get you and the people you work with to prevent your future fatal injury.

I want to tell you that we're sorry that:

- we didn't see that the deadly energy you were exposed to wasn't properly controlled
- we didn't take the time to make sure that you understood the safe behaviours you needed to follow so you would go home every night to your family
- we didn't get the right tools to do your job safely
- we assumed because you were a seasoned veteran at your job we didn't have to remind you to take those important precautions of wearing your personal protective equipment
- we rushed through the last safety meeting so we could get back to work sooner
- we forgot to look where you were before we backed up the vehicle
- we didn't have a more experienced worker with you to guide you through the safe procedures
- we didn't put up the guardrails
- we didn't think that you would fall asleep behind the wheel because we scheduled long work shifts and worked you overtime to the point of your exhaustion
- we talked to you on your cell phone when we knew you were driving
- we didn't provide a lockout process for you to follow
- we didn't check to see that you knew how to do what you were doing your job safely
- we showed you a shortcut to follow that killed you.

- we followed a different level of safety during the week than on the weekend when no one else is around
- we didn't recognize sooner in your career that the chemicals and substances that we had you working with were hazardous to your long term health
- we didn't learn from the last time this happened to someone
- we didn't make sure that someone was held accountable to fix the thing that fatally injured you
- we made fun of you because you usually took the time to be extra careful
- we let you work without the fall arrest equipment
- we let you enter that confined space without following the procedures
- we didn't ensure that the safety rules we have here actually are the way it is around here
- we didn't check to make sure the equipment you were working with was properly maintained
- we gave you work that exposed you to uncontrolled hazards
- we didn't think about your safety when we asked you to rush that last job
- we sent you down into that trench without shoring
- we ignored the fact that you usually don't wear your seatbelt
- we didn't remember that the overhead power line we touched with the crane was there
- I had to write this letter



Most importantly we're sorry that your mother & father lost their child. We're so very sorry that your brothers & sisters have lost their sibling; that your sons and daughters will grow up without you and that your spouse will never hold you again...

For these things we're truly sorry and wish we had done something differently.

Regretfully

Alan D. Quilley CRSP

Alan D. Quilley (1954-2021) was a distinguished safety professional whose career spanned over 4 decades in the field of OH&S. As a CRSP, published author, and highly successful consultant and trainer, Alan made invaluable contributions to the OH&S community. His insightful articles and teachings remain relevant today. In honor of his legacy, I will periodically include Alan's past writings in this newsletter, as they contain timeless wisdom and guidance that continue to benefit us all. Though he is no longer with us, Alan's passion for safety lives on through his enduring words and teachings.

BCRSP- CPD Mandatory Ethics Course Online - February 1/24

This course takes approximately 3.5 hours to complete.

Registrations for the February 1/24 course are open until February 6/24 and the course concludes February 29/24. This comprehensive and thought-provoking course, designed specifically for, and approved by the BCRSP by Alan Quilley, (who was a CRSP for 35+ years), is ensured to enlighten and challenge a CRSP and CRST's thinking of ethics in their professional practice.

For more information and to register, please click [here](#).



Compliments for our CRSP/CRST Study material and Virtual Coaching

"I wanted to share that I'm now a CRSP. Thank you for your wisdom and support".

"A big thanks to both of you for the resources and course you facilitated. It definitely made the difference for me and I am very glad a colleague recommended the course (I say recommended but it was more of a strongly urged lol)"

"I am just sending you this email to inform you guys that I passed my CRST exam on my second writing!"

"Just wanted to thank you guys again – your coaching and study material were beyond helpful in attaining my certification".

"I was so excited to learn that I had passed! The exam was just as hard as I expected and in some ways, even harder. I was feeling discouraged and quite certain I hadn't passed it, actually".

"The Safety Results study program was excellent, and together with the one on one mentoring I received, was integral to my successful result on the exam. The quality of the materials was apparent and showed the dedication in making this prep coaching the best it could be. I would recommend everyone go through these materials fully".

"I got my results from the BCRSP on Friday. I passed! Thank you so much for your help and coaching".

What are you waiting for?

Testimonials from our valued clients serve to reinforce that along with their own hard work, our study material/coaching packages and process, prove without a doubt that WE have the right formula. Visit our [website!](#)

CRSP AND CRST VIRTUAL COACHING EXAMINATION PREPARATION

As it has always been our commitment to help candidates with their studies for both the [CRSPEX](#) and the [CRSTEX](#), we are continuing our Virtual Coaching Packages. These packages are currently available to those that are writing the 2020 Blueprint CRSPEX and the 2024 Blueprint CRSTEX.

We will provide all of the material (shipped at our cost within Canada only). We are also delighted to offer generous discounts to current members in good standing of the CSSE and WOHSS (not combinable). For more information on those discounts, please contact [Marie](#).

This virtual package includes 6 hours of personal coaching with Greg McInnes CRSP (NP) (CRSP held from 1984-2023). The hours are broken down however you wish. There will be homework assignments between the calls. Calls are individualized and held via phone or Zoom Video Conference, your choice. Packages must be used within 6 months of purchase. The expiry date will change when new Blueprints are announced.

“It’s really important to know who is trying to teach you something”. - Alan D Quilley CRSP

Who is your Coach?

Greg McInnes is our instructor and can teach you how to study to help you in being successful in your journey to certification. He is a respected leader in OH&S, having over 30 years’ experience in the field in OH&S management positions (civic government, healthcare, aerospace, oil and gas and utilities). Greg has also been a member of the Board of Governors for the BCRSP and held positions with CSSE at both the local, provincial and national levels.

He is a retired CRSP who consults to industry helping them create and implement their Health and Safety program. Greg has developed and instructed adult OHS education programs at the University of Alberta and has co-instructed at NAIT along with instructing OHS courses for varying companies. With all his experience, and sharing our techniques to help you focus your studies, why look elsewhere? When selecting your mentor, take the time to research who other providers are. We believe that they simply won’t measure up with us in terms of quality, experience and teaching style.

“There are no hard questions if you know the answers”. - Alan D Quilley CRSP

CRSP Virtual Coaching Package

Inclusions:

- Study material (material shipped at our cost within Canada only) based on the 2020 CRSP Examination Blueprint
- 6 hours personal coaching with Greg McInnes
- CRSP Exam Prep Study Manual
- CRSP Exam Prep Knowledge Gap Analysis Questions & Answers Workbook
- Handbook (offered only to those taking part in this Virtual Coaching Package)
- \$899.00 + tax

CRST Virtual Coaching Package

Inclusions:

- Study material (material shipped at our cost within Canada only) based on the 2024 CRST Examination Blueprint
- 6 hours personal coaching with Greg McInnes
- CRST Exam Prep Study Manual
- CRST Exam Prep Knowledge Gap Analysis Questions & Answers Workbook
- Handbook (offered only to those taking part in this Virtual Coaching Package)
- \$899.00 + tax

If you wish to purchase only study material

(CRSP Study Manual and Workbook or CRST Study Manual and Workbook)

please visit our website:

[CRSP Study Material](#) or [CRST Study Material](#)