

Human Factors & Injury

A While Paper and Overview

Human Factors & Injuries

Seven Categories of Safety Culture

Human Factors, Ergonomics & Injuries

Reporting & Openness – Workers feel safe reporting early concerns about strain, fatigue, or confusing procedures without fear of stigma or reprisal.

- **Physical** – Report pain early
- **Cognitive** – Share near misses
- **Organizational** – Open feedback

Leadership Commitment – Supervisors and managers consistently allocate time, resources, and attention to ergonomic design, staffing, and workload balance.

- **Physical** – Provide safe tools
- **Cognitive** – Support training time
- **Organizational** – Enforce policies

Communication Clarity – Safety messages about body mechanics, decision traps, or organizational risks are delivered clearly through pre-shift talks, signage, and reminders.

- **Physical** – Post clear signs
- **Cognitive** – Use plain words
- **Organizational** – Consistent rules

Training & Learning – Ongoing education ensures that both leaders and workers understand physical, cognitive, and organizational human factors—and know how to act before errors or injuries occur.

- **Physical** – Teach safe lifting
- **Cognitive** – Practice scenarios
- **Organizational** – Share lessons

Employee Participation – Workers actively contribute to prevention efforts by suggesting ergonomic improvements, reporting near misses, and supporting team-wide adherence to safer practices.

- **Physical** – Suggest tool changes
- **Cognitive** – Spot error traps
- **Organizational** – Join committees

Accountability – Supervisors and peers consistently follow through on work-rest schedules, equipment use, and reporting systems, creating a culture where expectations are reinforced.

- **Physical** – Enforce rest breaks
- **Cognitive** – Confirm procedures
- **Organizational** – Track compliance

Continuous Improvement – Human factors practices are regularly reviewed and updated using incident data, worker

feedback, and industry benchmarks to strengthen prevention over time.

- **Physical** – Update equipment
- **Cognitive** – Revise training
- **Organizational** – Review systems

Together, these seven categories show what a mature culture of human factors and ergonomics looks like in practice. Workers are encouraged to speak up, leaders dedicate resources, communication is clear, and prevention is reinforced daily through training, participation, accountability, and improvement.

If your organization finds it is strong in some areas but lacking in others, the *Building a Safety Culture That Lasts* book provides detailed guidance on how to strengthen each category step by step. This Human Factors & Safety Field Guide shows the destination—the end goal of what effective prevention looks like across all seven cultural dimensions—while the larger safety culture book offers the roadmap for getting there.

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The material reflects the author's interpretation of research and regulatory documents, organized in line with the seven major safety culture categories identified by NIOSH and expanded upon in the author's broader safety publications. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, neither the publisher nor the author shall be liable for any errors, omissions, or actions taken based on this content. For case-specific guidance or intervention, consult qualified professionals.

Gratitude is extended to Safety Leaders, Operations Leaders, and Teams who work daily to protect their workforce and one another.

Human Factors & Injury: A White Paper and Overview DRAFT

Honeycutt Science (A White Paper) 2025

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Honeycutt Science – A White Paper

The *Field Guides for Safety Leaders* series and *Honeycutt Science (A White Paper)* – herein Guides or Paper – thought leadership is built around practical, research-informed strategies to help safety and operations leaders protect their workforce and each other. Each guide focuses on a single, high-priority topic, distilling complex science and regulatory expectations into clear, actionable steps for the field and academics.

The central focus of these guides is prevention—helping leaders identify and reduce risks before incidents occur. Each guide also covers response practices, offering approaches that support leaders and teams when hazards arise.

Each field guide includes scientific background and simplified technical details, with clear explanations of key research and historical context. This is not a “how-to manual” or a checklist—it is a deeper exploration designed to provide insights that spark new understanding and support stronger safety decision-making.

Each Guide, Paper or booklet is a resource for understanding, preventing, and addressing a workplace safety challenge. The content follows the seven categories of safety culture described by NIOSH, highlighting both practical measures and broader cultural perspectives that go beyond compliance.

Introduction

When it comes to human factors, waiting until errors or accidents have already occurred is far too late. A strong safety culture is built on anticipating cognitive and organizational risks and addressing them before they cause harm. This guide begins by grounding leaders in the principle that *designing systems around people is always more effective than forcing people to adapt to flawed systems*.

Prevention requires understanding the risk factors that shape how people think, decide, and coordinate. Fatigue, divided attention, and information overload raise the likelihood of mistakes. Poor communication, unclear roles, or incentive structures that reward production over safety create hidden traps. Leaders who monitor these conditions and act early protect both individual workers and the organization as a whole. By putting human factors first, safety becomes part of the daily rhythm rather than an afterthought.

Training and situational awareness are central to prevention. Proactive leaders design instruction that fits how people learn and retain knowledge, and they build systems that support clear perception of risks in real time. They also enforce work practices—like structured handoffs and open reporting—that give workers the confidence to speak up before problems escalate. These practices,

consistently reinforced, dramatically reduce the likelihood of human error.

Prevention is not limited to individuals. Organizational design—shift patterns, staffing levels, communication flows, and leadership practices—shapes daily decision-making. Incentives that emphasize safe performance, reporting systems that encourage openness, and leaders who act visibly on feedback create environments where safety is the natural outcome.

Finally, prevention must be reinforced as a cultural value. OSHA's standards largely define the physical domain, but true prevention in human factors goes beyond compliance. Leaders who emphasize both cognitive and organizational ergonomics demonstrate a commitment to protecting people and operations alike. A prevention mindset, practiced daily and supported by leadership, sets the foundation for effective recognition, response, and a lasting culture of safety.

- Prevention is a strength
- Clarity is protection
- Values are safeguards

Chapter 1: Prevention First

Safety leadership begins with prevention. Preventing risks before they harm people, equipment, or productivity is always more effective than responding after the fact. Human factors, as a discipline, is built on this principle: systems work best when they are designed to fit people, not when people are forced to adapt to flawed systems.

The Three Domains of Human Factors

Authoritative bodies such as the International Ergonomics Association (IEA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and leading academic programs in human factors identify three interrelated domains:

- **Physical Ergonomics** — posture, lifting, repetition, force, and design of tools or tasks.
- **Cognitive Ergonomics** — attention, memory, decision-making, workload, and error traps.
- **Organizational Ergonomics** — culture, policies, reporting systems, leadership, incentives, and team coordination.

This tripartite framework is widely recognized and provides a reliable foundation for safety leaders.

Ceding the Physical Domain

OSHA's Domain: In the United States, OSHA has effectively “claimed” the physical domain through its regulations, standards, and enforcement. Most safety managers are already familiar with OSHA's requirements for ergonomics (human factors), manual handling, and related physical risks. For this reason, this guide will largely *cede* the physical domain to OSHA.

Beyond OSHA: But prevention doesn't stop there. NIOSH research and emerging industry practices point to new physical elements that go beyond current OSHA law:

- Use of exoskeletons in material handling.
- Wearable monitoring devices that track fatigue or posture.
- Smart PPE that integrates sensors and alerts.
- Robotics and automation that shift high-risk manual tasks away from people.

These innovations show that the physical domain is still evolving, even if OSHA's regulatory framework lags behind.

Where Prevention Is Most Needed: Cognitive and Organizational

Most serious failures in safety arise not from physical strain alone, but from cognitive and organizational weaknesses. Workers make errors when attention is divided, signals are unclear, or

fatigue undermines decision-making. Teams stumble when communication breaks down, when incentives reward production over safety, or when leaders fail to reinforce reporting systems.

Cognitive Ergonomics emphasizes:

- Managing workload and vigilance.
- Designing clear alarms and signals.
- Supporting situational awareness and training that fits how people learn.
- Recognizing stress, fatigue, and decision traps before they cause errors.

Organizational Ergonomics emphasizes:

- Designing work systems (shifts, staffing, rotations) to fit human limits.
- Creating open reporting and responsive feedback systems.
- Setting incentives that reward safe practices.
- Leadership behaviors that reinforce trust, accountability, and clarity.

Prevention as Daily Leadership

True prevention requires leaders to monitor these risk factors and act early. This means building clarity into communication, anticipating how fatigue or overload may influence judgment, and reinforcing safety values every day. Compliance may start with OSHA, but leadership moves beyond compliance into a culture where prevention is expected, supported, and practiced.

Anchors for Human Factors & Safety

Three simple anchors summarize the prevention mindset:

- **Prevention is a strength**
- **Clarity is protection**
- **Values are safeguards**

Prevention, clarity, and values reflect the everyday heart of human factors. They remind leaders to design work that fits people, to keep communication clear, and to hold fast to values that protect both workers and operations.

Chapter 2: Your Team Might Resist

1. Perceptions of Value *“Is this even real safety?”*

- This Feels Too Soft – Workers dismiss HF as abstract or “HR fluff.”

- We've Always Done It This Way – Tradition reinforces skepticism toward change.
- This Slows Us Down – New practices are seen as productivity killers.
- What's In It for Me? (WIIFM) – Benefits look one-sided, serving management not workers.

Implications:

If human factors feels optional or irrelevant, crews disengage. Workers may comply on paper but ignore them in practice. Over time, this undermines both the credibility of leadership and the adoption of safer practices.

Possible Solutions:

- Tie HF practices to concrete outcomes workers care about (fewer errors, smoother shifts, less rework).
- Frame prevention as professionalism: “Doing it right the first time.”
- Share stories or case examples where human factors saved time or lives.
- Answer WIIFM directly: *“Here’s how this protects you and makes your day easier.”*

2. Capability & Confidence “Can I keep up?”

- Technology Will Replace Us – Fear that automation, robotics, or AI will eliminate jobs.
- I Don’t Understand This New System – Skill gaps, disrupted routines, reluctance to admit difficulty.
- The Young Folks Get It, Not Us – Generational divide; older workers feel left behind or undervalued.

Implications:

Workers who feel overwhelmed or threatened by change may quietly disengage, resist openly, or resent younger colleagues. This creates silos, age-related friction, and sometimes turnover among experienced staff — which erodes institutional knowledge.

Possible Solutions:

- Provide hands-on training that respects different learning speeds.
- Pair older workers with younger ones in two-way mentoring (skills for experience).
- Reassure teams that technology augments, not replaces human judgment.

- Recognize and value experience as a safeguard against over-trusting machines.

3. Trust *“Do I believe in the people leading this?”*

- This Is Just Micromanagement – Feels like oversight rather than empowerment.
- We Don’t Trust Leadership – Skepticism rooted in past missteps.
- Change Fatigue – Constant churn breeds cynicism and disengagement.

Implications:

Without trust, even good practices are resisted. Leaders may unintentionally reinforce resistance if they apply HF in a top-down, compliance-heavy way. Workers interpret this as control, not care. Over time, they stop listening.

Possible Solutions:

- Communicate the “why” clearly and consistently.
- Avoid checkbox enforcement — instead, show how practices improve daily work.
- Pace changes realistically; not every initiative needs to roll out at once.

- Demonstrate follow-through: act on feedback and show visible results.
- Train middle managers to be champions, not enforcers.

Closing Thought

Resistance to human factors is normal — but it clusters into three big buckets: questions of value, concerns about capability, and issues of trust. Leaders who anticipate these patterns can prepare responses that are clear, consistent, and respectful, turning natural hesitation into long-term adoption.

Chapter 3: Statistics and Realities

Human factors incidents are often invisible until they result in serious accidents. Fatalities and catastrophic errors may capture headlines, but behind each one lies a far larger number of near misses, miscommunications, decision errors, and organizational breakdowns. These events rarely make it into formal injury logs, yet they carry substantial long-term costs: lost productivity, turnover, medical expenses, liability exposure, and—most importantly—real human consequences.

The statistics cited in this chapter are drawn from a range of professional, regulatory, and research sources. Some figures reflect U.S.-specific data, while others are derived from international or global analyses. Percentages and cost estimates vary by

methodology, industry, and reporting system, but collectively they illustrate a consistent pattern: human and organizational factors are measurable contributors to safety outcomes across sectors and regions.

Regulatory and Professional Data

- Some safety literature estimates that human factors contribute to approximately 80–90% of workplace accidents, particularly in environments characterized by high workload, fatigue, or communication breakdowns (OSHA/BLS, 2022).
- Some national estimates suggest that nearly 30% of U.S. workers operate under conditions of elevated cognitive load or organizational pressure (e.g., long shifts, understaffed teams), which are associated with increased risk of fatigue, errors, and injury (NIOSH, 2021).
- Some ergonomic guidance associated with Threshold Limit Values® (TLVs®) and related exposure documentation suggests that sustained high-force or highly repetitive work may warrant limits approaching 30% of a shift to reduce localized fatigue and error risk (ACGIH, 2016).
- Global health analyses estimate that long working hours contribute to approximately 750,000 deaths annually from

stroke and heart disease, underscoring the broader safety and health implications of organizational design. ISO 45001:2018 incorporates human factors and organizational considerations into occupational health and safety management systems (WHO/ILO analyses; ISO 45001:2018).

- Some transportation safety analyses attribute approximately 94% of roadway crashes to human factors such as inattention, impairment, or decision errors, highlighting the broader influence of human performance in safety outcomes (NSC, 2020).

Industry-Specific Realities

- **Healthcare:** Extended shifts and poor handoffs are linked to a 36% increase in serious medical errors and a 61% higher risk of needle-stick injuries among residents (ACGME/NEJM, 2004).
- **Aviation:** Aviation safety analyses frequently estimate that approximately 70–80% of aviation accidents involve human factors such as miscommunication, decision-making errors, or inadequate situational awareness (FAA, 2019).
- **Maritime / Oil & Gas:** Industry analyses of offshore and drilling operations often estimate that approximately 60–

80% of major accidents involve human or organizational factors such as fatigue, unclear roles, or breakdowns in crew resource management (UK HSE; NIOSH, 2017).

- **Manufacturing / Warehousing:** Fatigue and attention failures contribute to 20–25% of workplace injuries, and night-shift workers report nearly double the error rate of day-shift peers (NIOSH, 2018).
- **Construction / Energy:** Organizational lapses (misaligned incentives, weak communication, ignored reporting) are consistently cited as root causes in serious incidents—responsible for up to 60% of major construction accidents according to international case analyses (ILO/Eurostat, 2019).

Hidden and Financial Impacts

- **Near Misses:** Some safety models and near-miss reporting analyses estimate that for every serious accident, there may be 50–100 near misses involving miscommunication, unclear instructions, or lapses in attention (NSC, 2018).
- **Turnover and Training Costs:** Replacing an experienced worker due to burnout or disengagement costs employers 30–50% of annual salary. When turnover is driven by poor

organizational ergonomics, the cycle perpetuates itself (SHRM, 2020).

- **Economic Burden:** A single \$5,000 injury claim may require \$250,000 in sales to cover costs (OSHA “Safety Pays”). Fatigue, stress, and other human factors cost U.S. employers more than \$136 billion annually in lost productivity, health claims, and insurance premiums (OSHA, 2019; NSC, 2020).

Conclusion

Taken together, these statistics reveal that human factors are not abstract or “soft.” They are measurable, documented hazards that directly shape injury rates, error frequency, and organizational costs. Just as OSHA statistics demonstrate the visible toll of physical hazards, data from NIOSH, WHO, ISO, and industry studies show that cognitive and organizational ergonomics are equally critical.

Prevention in human factors requires leadership commitment: building systems that anticipate attention limits, ensuring clarity in communication, and reinforcing values that safeguard both workers and operations.

Chapter 4: Recognizing the Hazard

Across history, some of the most dangerous activities have been made routine through human factors design — long before we began using the phrase “*human factors*” (see Appendix A).

The stoplight transformed chaotic intersections into predictable flows of traffic. Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) turned unpredictable industrial maintenance into a structured, safer process. Aviation phraseology standardized communication in the skies, removing deadly ambiguity.

Each example shows how physical, cognitive, and organizational hazards can be recognized and systematically addressed — turning risk into reliability.

A Tangible Example: The Stoplight

Modern traffic signals are so ordinary that most people forget they are a human factors success story. Yet when automobiles first crowded city streets in the early 20th century, crashes were frequent and deadly. Hazards existed in all three domains:

- **Physical Ergonomics** – Drivers had limited visibility, especially at night or in poor weather. Early hand-operated signals or police gestures were hard to see. Physical strain and reaction time made it difficult to respond quickly.

- **Cognitive Ergonomics** – Intersections required split-second decisions. With multiple directions of traffic and no standard signal system, drivers were overloaded by conflicting cues. Errors were inevitable.
- **Organizational Ergonomics** – There was no consistent rule set across jurisdictions. Some cities used whistles, others used bells, and enforcement varied widely. Without uniform policies, chaos ruled the road.

The modern red-yellow-green stoplight resolved these hazards through **human factors design**. Lights were elevated and standardized for visibility (physical), color coding provided clear decision rules (cognitive), and regulations enforced the same system everywhere (organizational). What was once dangerous is now routine — not because people became better drivers, but because the system was redesigned around human limits.

A Tangible Example: Lockout/Tagout (LOTO)

Industrial maintenance was once one of the most dangerous tasks in manufacturing. Workers were routinely injured or killed when machines unexpectedly restarted while repairs or cleaning were underway. Hazards existed in all three domains:

- **Physical Ergonomics** – Machines contained stored energy in springs, hydraulics, or electrical systems. Even if the main power were off, a sudden release could crush, cut, or electrocute a worker. Physically, there was no obvious way to know if a machine was safe to touch.
- **Cognitive Ergonomics** – Multiple workers might assume someone else had de-energized equipment, or forget hidden energy sources like residual pressure. In high-pressure environments, assumptions and memory errors were common.
- **Organizational Ergonomics** – There was no consistent procedure for shutdown. Each plant or supervisor might have a different method, and accountability was unclear. Some workers relied on verbal assurances or informal tags, which easily failed.

The Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) system resolved these hazards through **human factors design**. A standardized procedure was created: isolate the energy source, lock it with a physical device, tag it with visible information, and require each worker to apply their own lock. Physically, this made equipment inoperable; cognitively, it removed guesswork by showing clear visual status; organizationally, it established uniform rules enforced by OSHA.

What was once unpredictable is now one of the most basic protections in industrial safety.

A Tangible Example: Aviation Phraseology

In the early decades of aviation, radio communication between pilots and air traffic control was inconsistent and error-prone. Ambiguous language, poor sound quality, and human assumptions often led to confusion — with catastrophic results. Hazards existed in all three domains:

- **Physical Ergonomics** – Noisy cockpits and primitive radios distorted sound. Letters and numbers were easily misheard, especially under stress or static. Pilots often repeated back instructions incorrectly without realizing it.
- **Cognitive Ergonomics** – Controllers and pilots used everyday speech like “Okay,” “Go ahead,” or “You’re fine,” which could mean different things in different contexts. Under time pressure, this ambiguity created fatal decision errors.
- **Organizational Ergonomics** – Each airline, country, or tower improvised its own terminology. Without international standards, a phrase that worked in one place caused confusion in another.

Standard aviation phraseology solved these hazards through **human factors design**. Clear, unambiguous phrases like “Roger” (I have received your message), “Wilco” (I will comply), and “Cleared for Takeoff” replaced casual speech. Physical limits were addressed by requiring repeat-backs to catch misheard transmissions; cognitive overload was reduced by narrowing language to a fixed vocabulary; organizational consistency was achieved by global adoption under ICAO rules. Today, these phrases are so routine they feel obvious, yet they represent a century of refining communication around human limits.

A: History of Human Factors

The term *human factors* is relatively modern, but the practices it describes — designing work, tools, and organizations to fit people — are as old as human civilization. Long before the discipline had a name, leaders, engineers, and craftsmen were solving problems of fit between human abilities and the demands of systems.

Before the Term *Human Factors*

- **Ancient Examples** – Toolmakers adjusted handles, grips, and levers to match human strength and reach. Roman military engineers designed roads, bridges, and siege machines with human use in mind — though they wouldn’t have called it ergonomics.

- **Industrial Revolution (1700s–1800s)** – As factories mechanized, accidents skyrocketed. Early efforts at machine guards, standard gauges, and safety levers can be seen as proto–human factors solutions, though the language was usually about “industrial safety” or “efficiency.”

Emergence of Ergonomics / Human Factors

- **World War I** – Aviation highlighted mismatches between human capabilities and machine demands (pilots misreading dials, fatigue in trench warfare). Research began into “fit” between humans and technology.
- **1930s–1940s** – The field of ergonomics emerged formally in Europe, emphasizing work design and efficiency.
- **World War II** – Often considered the birth of modern human factors. Complex aircraft, radar, and weapons systems failed when operators were overloaded or confused. “Human factors engineering” became a recognized discipline to reduce errors and improve reliability.
- **Postwar (1950s onward)** – The term *human factors* spread in the U.S., while *ergonomics* remained common in Europe. Both terms converged around the same idea: fitting systems to people.

Today: A Three-Domain Framework

Modern human factors is typically described through three interrelated domains:

- **Physical Ergonomics** – Fit between the human body and the physical demands of work.
- **Cognitive Ergonomics** – Fit between the human mind and the information, decisions, and signals required by systems.
- **Organizational Ergonomics** – Fit between groups, policies, culture, and leadership structures that govern work.

Today: Human Factors in Practice

- **Healthcare Checklists** – Standardized surgical and ICU checklists reduce memory load and prevent errors in high-stress environments.
- **Self-Driving Automobiles** – Human factors research is central to the “handoff problem” — how drivers safely re-engage when automation cannot handle a situation.
- **Industrial Wearables** – Smart PPE and fatigue monitors track posture, motion, and biometrics to reduce strain and prevent accidents.

- **Aviation & Spaceflight** – Cockpit layouts, instrument displays, and even spacecraft interiors are designed around attention, workload, and error prevention.

Future Directions: Early Concept Arena

- **Brain–Computer Interfaces (BCI)** – Experiments are underway to let humans directly control machines with neural signals, raising new questions about fatigue, attention, and error traps.
- **Drone Swarms & AI Collaboration** – Military and industrial teams are testing how humans can supervise dozens of autonomous systems at once without cognitive overload.
- **Augmented Reality (AR) for Safety** – Concept designs show helmets or glasses overlaying real-time hazard data in construction or firefighting, but integration and usability remain early challenges.
- **Exoskeletons** – Still in trial phases for logistics and manufacturing, balancing support with comfort and preventing new strains.
- **Mars/Moon Habitats** – Human factors research is shaping the first concepts for work-rest cycles, isolation

management, and life-support tasks in extreme environments.

Conclusion

Human factors are not just history; they shape today's most visible systems. In healthcare, surgical and ICU checklists reduce memory load and prevent errors. In transportation, self-driving cars depend on solving the “handoff problem” — how drivers safely re-engage when automation fails. Industrial wearables monitor fatigue and posture, while aviation and spaceflight continue to refine cockpit layouts, displays, and crew coordination. Each example reflects the same principle seen throughout history: systems work best when designed around human limits (see Appendix A).

Looking ahead, human factors is already influencing early-concept technologies. Brain–computer interfaces, drone swarms, and augmented reality for safety are still experimental, but they raise urgent questions about attention, error traps, and overload.

Exoskeletons in logistics and concepts for Mars or lunar habitats are likewise in their infancy, yet all depend on matching technology to human capacity. These frontiers suggest that tomorrow's breakthroughs will require the same lesson learned in the past: prevention begins with design that fits people.

References

ACGIH – American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. Publisher of Threshold Limit Values (TLVs®) for occupational exposure limits.

ACGME – Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. A U.S. body overseeing residency training programs.

AI – Artificial Intelligence. Computer systems designed to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence.

AR – Augmented Reality. Technology that overlays digital information onto real-world environments.

BCI – Brain–Computer Interface. Experimental systems allowing direct communication between neural activity and machines.

BLS – Bureau of Labor Statistics. A U.S. federal agency providing labor and workplace injury data.

CErgHF – Chartered Ergonomist and Human Factors Specialist. A professional designation used primarily in the United Kingdom and Europe.

CHFP – Certified Human Factors Professional. A professional certification in human factors and ergonomics.

CPE – Certified Professional Ergonomist. A professional ergonomics certification.

Eurostat – Statistical Office of the European Union.

FAA – Federal Aviation Administration. A U.S. agency regulating civil aviation.

HF – Human Factors. The discipline focused on designing systems to fit human capabilities and limitations.

HFES – Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. A U.S.-based professional association for human factors specialists.

ICAO – International Civil Aviation Organization. A United Nations agency that sets global aviation standards.

IEA – International Ergonomics Association. A global federation of ergonomics societies.

ILO – International Labour Organization. A United Nations agency focused on labor standards and worker protections.

ISO 45001:2018 – International standard for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems published by the International Organization for Standardization.

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OSHA/BLS (2022) – Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment. Protective clothing or equipment designed to safeguard workers.

SHRM – Society for Human Resource Management. A professional association for human resource professionals.

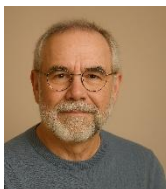
TLVs® – Threshold Limit Values. Occupational exposure guidelines published by ACGIH.

UK HSE/NIOSH (2017) – United Kingdom Health and Safety Executive and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

WHO – World Health Organization. A United Nations agency responsible for global public health.

WIIFM – “What’s In It For Me?” A motivational framing concept.

About the Author



Dr. John A. Honeycutt holds a PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and is a consultant, educator, and author focused on safety culture, workforce topics, and team development.

He is not a medical professional, clinical psychologist. He is not a Certified Professional Ergonomist (CPE) or Certified Human Factors Professional (CHFP), Chartered Ergonomist and Human Factors Specialist (CErgHF) or hold similar human factors designations.

He is the founder of Honeycutt Science, where he combines academic research with applied field experience to help organizations protect people and strengthen culture.

Over three decades, Dr. Honeycutt has held leadership and consulting roles with major firms and independent projects, bridging business growth, safety practices, and human behavior.

He is the author of *Building a Safety Culture That Lasts* and *Scaffold-Up*, along with a growing series of applied safety and leadership field guides. His STEP Framework™ (Spark Curiosity, Tailor the Approach, Emphasize Trust, Pursue Impacts) is used by organizations moving beyond compliance toward lasting cultural change.

Dr. Honeycutt also holds OSHA credentials and continues to advise on regulatory alignment, culture diagnostics, and training approaches that make safety—and the well-being of people—both lasting and real.

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