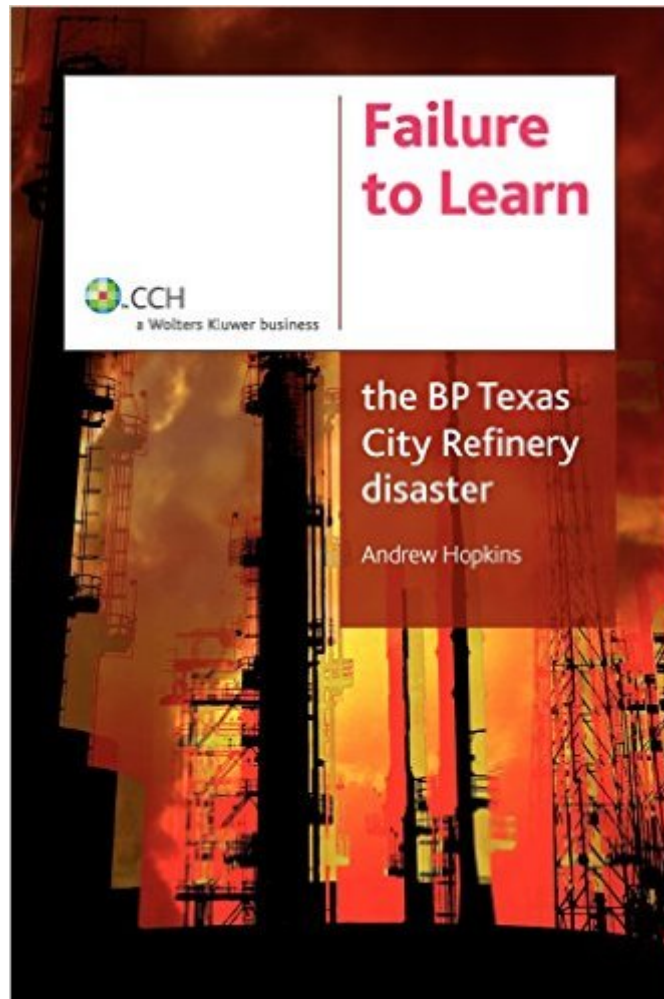


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# Failure To Learn: The BP Texas City Refinery Disaster



## Synopsis

In *Failure to Learn: The BP Texas City Refinery Disaster*, respected OHS expert Professor Andrew Hopkins discusses the causes of a major explosion at the Texas City Oil Refinery on March 23, 2005, that killed 15 workers and injured more than 170 others. *Failure to Learn* also analyses the similarities between this event and the Longford Gas Plant explosion in Victoria in 1998, featured in his earlier book *Lessons from Longford*. Professor Andrew Hopkins is being recognized by the European Process Safety Centre in October 2008, in recognition of his contribution to safety. Professor Hopkins is the first winner to receive the award, outside of Europe, which is a demonstration of the impact of his valuable work worldwide. Andrew has been awarded a prize by the European Process Safety Centre for "extraordinary contribution to process safety", the first time this has been awarded outside of Europe. He also appears in the US Chemical Safety Board film on Texas City and has been invited to appear in a subsequent film. Professor Hopkins poses questions such as: Why was the number of victims so large? Who was blamed for the explosion? What were the real causes? Had lessons been learnt from the earlier incident at Longford? Has anything changed as a result of the Texas City accident? The foreword for the book was written by Carolyn Merritt, chair of the CSB at the time of the accident and subsequent inquiry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The incident is sited often as a tragic accident resulting in loss of life and injury to many workers in

addition to extensive damage. Hopkins gives an account of what happened and the background to reasons why. He doesn't pull any punches in getting to the root causes. Well written and easy for layman to understand -- not full of industry jargon. Highly recommended read.

Andrew Hopkins is adept, using plain english, at describing the essentials of industrial high consequence events and the aftermath of the investigative process. His focus is very much about learning lessons and not losing sight of the low likelihood/high consequence events that characterise serious incidents. Hopkins is well respected, and his insight and practical approach mean that everyone is capable of learning the lessons. He doesn't sit on the fence and is not afraid to assign accountability at all levels of business, society and government.

This was the first book I read about the affect an organization has on risk. The author looks at the safety incidents from an organizational view point. You have to step back and see how it might effect your organization.

So many ways to fail. It starts with the management of the company and spirals downward to the employees. This is a must read book that all persons who are in the operation of an operationally processing unit or units. So sad that many lives are lost in this tragedy but for the sake of all who continue to work hard in this their chosen profession, everyone in this arena must have this as as part of the orientation process when they start working for these companies. This should include the management groups to the hourly personnel. A MUST READ. This reading of this tragedy in "Failure to Learn" may or may not help prevent another horrible tragedy like this one from happening again. I pray that it never does.

Excellent book on the decisions that contributed to the fire/explosion. Provides some excellent thoughts for safety professionals, underwriters, and senior management in regards to review of risk management practices, identifying various gaps, and understanding the difference between personnel safety (slips, trips, and falls) and process safety.

Hopkins presents a very unbiased, factual account of the Texas City accident. The book is more of a dissection of the accident and why it happened. He does not have an agenda with the book and clearly provides reasons why the accident happened and what could have been done to prevent it. I recommend it for engineers working in the oil and gas industry. It delineated issues that all

engineers should take into account when designing facilities and the accidents that could happen without very good designs.

Andrew Hopkins explores behind the many failures of BP's process safety management system that lead to the Texas City Refinery disaster. It is an excellent discussion of how even with systems in place to track and investigate process safety incidents without the proper lines of communication and authority; the ability to learn from our mistakes and improve our safety practices is at risk. This book is a must read for all process safety professionals.

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