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Chemeca 2025 and Hazards Australasia

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**Occupied building risks 20 years on from Texas City Richard Pocock**

**Principal Consultant Safety Risk - Worley**

Registered Process Safety Professional, I Chem E

Richard.Pocock@Worley.com

# ABSTRACT

The world had a wake up call in 2005 when the BP Texas City incident resulted in 14 fatalities. In March 2025 we remembered those that passed including 11 Worley colleagues. The tragedy shook our industry and changed the way we design facilities. It also started a process of challenging the location of existing and temporary buildings on sites with process hazards.

The incident is a grave reminder of the hazards in our industry and the responsibility we carry in ensuring safety both in design and implementation. We protect human life above all else. The incident resulted in new and revised standards from API and OSHA, but have the lessons been learnt or is there still a risk of a major process plant incident impacting occupied buildings?

This presentation will explore the question around whether we have learned the lessons from the 2005 BP Texas City incident, or if we still have work to do to ensure the safety of occupied buildings on new and existing facilities. This will include consideration of the challenges present on new energy projects where major hazards are present, but the proponents’ knowledge of historical process safety events is less mature.

# KEY WORDS

Occupied Buildings, Major Hazards, Layout, New Energy Projects, Lessons from Incidents

# BIOGRAPHY

Richard has over 39 years’ experience working across multiple industries in many countries in the safety and risk area. He is a Principal Consultant for Worley, providing safety and risk consulting services to major energy infrastructure projects. His in-depth knowledge of flammable and toxic hazards, the associated consequences and industry best practice safeguards help reduce risks to ALARP or SFAIRP. Richard is an experienced workshop facilitator for HAZID, ENVID, HAZOP, LOPA, SIL, CHAZOP, SAFOP, SMS, layout and PHA leadership.

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