



Questioned Documents Section – 2010

J24 Preconditions for Unsafe Acts in Forensic Document Examination

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The goal of this presentation is to acquaint attendees with the Swiss Cheese model of accident causation and consideration of human factors in risk management, developed by James T. Reason in 1990.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community regarding a safety method by which evaluation can be made as to conditions that may impact analysis and evaluation of evidence.

British psychologist James T. Reason developed a model in 1990 to evaluate accident causation by considering layers of human systems that can contribute to a failure. This model is routinely applied in safety applications. The four levels are comprised of the unsafe act, preconditions for the unsafe act, unsafe supervision, and organizational influences. Acknowledging the ever-present possibility of error in forensic examination of document evidence, preconditions that may lead to a lack of safety in practice are defined and discussed.

Safety, Error, Forensic Document Examination