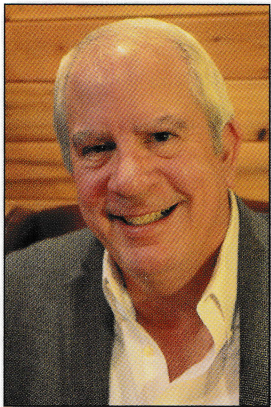


Safety Talk is an ongoing series that focuses on safety-related issues such as best practices, regulatory, training, compliance, hazard recognition and prevention, and other vital components of the safety commitment.



Eric Rosemann
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"Not on Our Watch!" Our Responsibility to Oilfield Security

Over the years, in my observation, "Security" has been added increasingly to the job description of that group known as Health, Safety and Environmental Professionals going from "HSE" to "HSSE." As the AESC champions HSE as a core value, this concept of "Security" has become more prominent in our communications to industry and what we can do to improve oilfield security.

We work in an industry vital to the national security of this great nation. We also work in an industry that not only can be a target (remember the dramatic images of the burning oil and gas wells of the first Iraq War, Operation Desert Shield 1990-1991), but that also possesses the very materials needed by those who would like

to do us harm. We as an industry must take our responsibility for the security of the physical infrastructure we use to produce energy seriously as we drill, service, transport and refine these products.

This magazine has several times published information on this subject. The first time was not long after "9-11" (*HazMat Security after 9-11, Well Servicing magazine, November/December 2002*) and again on a "hot topic" (no pun intended) in 2006 (*Radioactive Materials Security, Well Servicing magazine, March/April 2006*) to name just two. So, here is a 2016 update: Improvement still needed!

Recently, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted a "sting" operation on radioactive material (RAM) licensing in several "Agreement States," a state agency that conducts RAM regulations/oversight instead of the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to test a potential adversary's ability to secure RAM legally in an effort to create a home-grown "Dirty Bomb." The same "sting" operation was conducted in 2007 on the NRC. The results were both similar and neither was encouraging. Search with keywords "radioactive material sting operations, 2007 or 2016." The results are disturbing.

How effective will security be in the future as a result of these stings? Will drastic changes be made to upgrade security? In this case, not much changed from 2007 to 2016. We are not limited to the materials we use in our businesses. Physical infrastructure is a factor as well. We see the "Lone Wolf" phenomena now. Turn the wrong valve, maybe? These acts are hard to defend against, but there are effective defenses we can employ and as usual, it is up to our industry to deploy them. It is our responsibility, not government's.

How to do that? By active observation and intervention in "m." It sounds like a Behavior-Based Safety statement, right? It is just that. Risk Management with human beings. Observe your job and those in your work environment. Intervene, execute your site-specific security plan as necessary and actively participate in security initiative planning because you know your job and you need to "think security" as part of that job. We as an industry, are best at effectively policing ourselves when we want or need to and folks, we need to. Let's make this happen for ourselves, our industry and our nation. Remember, "Not on Our Watch!" 🐼



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