AXIOM

MAXIMISING ASSETS - MINIMISING RISKS

OCCUPIED BUILDING RISK ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL BRIEFING

Tuesday, 17th February 2026 - Hull (Ergo Business Centre)

cia

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Alan Wood & Partners

events@axiom-ltd.com

BACKGROUND

Occupied buildings situated on major hazard sites must be designed to withstand all foreseeable events including fires, explosions, and toxic releases. The risk to people located within buildings can be severe as a result of blast overpressure from an explosion. Flame impingement and high thermal radiation could damage the building structure and hinder personnel exit from the building. If occupied buildings are not properly designed, smoke or toxic atmosphere ingress can lead to serious health issues or fatality. Occupied Building Risk Assessment (OBRA) demonstrate that people located within buildings are adequately protected.

The technical briefing will delve into past incidents and lessons learned to reduce risk to people located within buildings. We would discuss OBRA methodologies to be considered for existing or new buildings, whether portable or permanent building types.

AGENDA

08:30 Registration with coffee and breakfast snacks
09:00 Welcome and Introduction - **Peter Hunt**
09:05 Occupied Buildings: A Case Study - **Steve Bellamy/John Butcher**
- A major accident and its impact on those in occupied buildings (case study)
- Framing the CIA's Guidance for the location and design of occupied buildings on chemical manufacturing sites

09:35 Past Incidents - **Oyinda Gunn/Robert Fitch**
10:00 Building Categorisation and Hazard Scenarios - **Oyinda Gunn/Robert Fitch**
- How to determine if a building is classed as occupied
- Selective set of hazardous events and accident scenarios
- Prediction of physical or toxic effects on occupied buildings

10:30 Break
11:00 OBRA Assessment Methodologies - **Oyinda Gunn/Robert Fitch**
- Acceptable criteria for hazard levels
- Methodology for hazard-based and risk-based assessment
- ALARP demonstration, Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) and exceedance curve approach
- Hierarchy of controls (risk reduction measures)
- Assessment documentation, follow-up, and future update

11:30 Structural Considerations for Occupied Buildings - **Paul Burrell**
- Identifying vulnerabilities and defects in existing buildings
- Structural and systems assessment methodology
- Assessing facade systems for fire, blast, and toxic gas hazards
- Protective design strategy for blast-resistant structures
- Compliance and risk reduction strategies

12:00 Discussion
12:10 Lunch and Networking
13:00 Close

MEET THE SPEAKERS

Steve Bellamy BSc (Hons), PGCert
Responsible Care Executive - Chemical Industries Association
Steve is a Chemist by discipline, with nearly 30 years of experience working in the process industries across a wide range of businesses including nuclear, fine chemical, pharmaceutical, oil & gas and petrochemical. His experience spans plant operations, operations management, process safety and project roles. Past employers have included BNFL, Air Products, AkzoNobel and INEOS. His most recent site-based role was as Site Manager for BASF at Seal Sands.

Oyinda Gunn BSc (Hons), MSc, AMIChemE
Principal Process Safety Engineer - AXIOM
Oyinda studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Lagos, followed by an MSc in Safety, Risk and Reliability Engineering at Herriot Watt University. She has over 17 years' process safety experience working in the Oil & Gas and Energy sectors with Technip and Whessoe Engineering. Projects have included incident investigation on refinery sites, design of cryogenic storage tanks and import terminals, HAZID/HAZOP/LOPA studies support, design of hydrogen facilities, Consequence analysis using DNV Phast, OBRA/TGR audit/optimisation study, HAC/DSEAR studies.

Robert Fitch MEng CEng MIChemE
Senior Process Safety Consultant - AXIOM
Robert is a Chartered Process Engineer with 15 years' experience working across the pharmaceutical, chemical and petrochemical industries. He has held positions in Research & Development, Manufacturing Support and Engineering Leadership for AstraZeneca, Johnson Matthey, Vertellus Specialities and Lianhetech. He has a broad range of technical expertise including; process & plant design, manufacturing troubleshooting, project execution, process hazard analysis, process safety management and participating in several OBRA studies.

Paul Burrell BSc (Hons) MSc CEng MIStructE
Office Director - Alan Wood & Partners
Paul is a Chartered Structural Engineer with 25 years' experience working across industry sectors such as Roads & Bridges, Buildings, Power, and Infrastructure. Most recently he has worked in high-hazard environments such as Nuclear & Defence. Paul has extensive technical expertise in structural inspection & appraisal, analysis, assessment, design, and construction of buildings and infrastructure projects. His experience includes managing & overseeing specialist teams working on safety-integrated designs and assessment projects in the Nuclear & Defence industry.

To book your place, email **events@axiom-ltd.com** with the names of the delegates attending and the date you would like to attend.

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