

MAJOR INCIDENT LESSONS

Incident Learning Sheet - September 2026

What Happened

Major process safety incidents have had a lasting impact on process safety practices.

Understanding the events that led to changes in process safety philosophy helps explain why these improvements were necessary.

The table below summarises recurring areas of weakness and examples of incidents in which they were identified.



Key Lessons

Recurring Area of Weakness

Management of Change

Leadership & Culture

Asset Integrity

Hazard Identification

Emergency Preparedness

Performance Monitoring

Examples of Incidents

Flixborough, Piper Alpha, Macondo

Bhopal, Texas City, Macondo

Bhopal, Buncefield, Texas City

Seveso, Buncefield

Seveso, Bhopal, Piper Alpha

Texas City, Buncefield

Learning from Incidents

Further Information

Background information is available on the relevant Wikipedia pages. However, readers are encouraged to consult the official investigation reports for a more detailed understanding of the incidents and the resulting developments in process safety. Examples include:

- [Macondo Investigation Report](#)
- [Piper Alpha Public Inquiry Report](#)
- [Texas City Investigation Report](#)
- [Buncefield Investigation Reports](#)