### **SAFETY BULLETIN**

ISSUE # 05-2021



## Do Your Safeguards Have Capacity to Fail Safely?



#### **ERRORS AND MISTAKES**

**Error** = unintentional action

**Mistake** = deliberate action, but not intended to have a negative outcome



We cannot eliminate all errors or mistakes from systems that involve humans. Additionally, humans can only perform as well as the organizational conditions they are working in.

As a result, we need to focus our efforts on safeguards and controls rather than solely on preventing errors or mistakes.

A system of safeguards that has capacity is one that allows the worker to "fail safely" when an error or mistake is made. This concept is known as "capacity to fail safely".

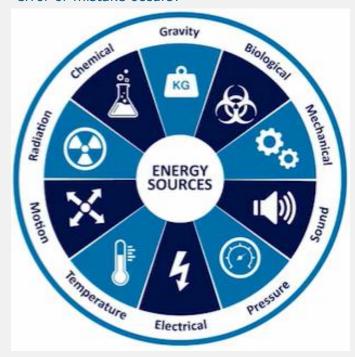


#### PUT IT TO WORK!

Safeguards that have capacity can prevent or minimize serious incidents, even when a person makes an error or mistake.

# Where could a serious incident occur in your work if someone makes an error or mistake?

- In your work, identify where hazardous energy exists and has the potential to cause harm. Use the energy wheel below to identify energy that could lead to a serious incident.
- Are the safeguards enough to keep you safe if an error or mistake occurs?



ENERGYSAFETYCANADA.COM PAGE 1 OF 1