

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?

