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How can we handle lessons learned from accidents?

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Things are changing, the society we live in and the risks therein. Lessons have to be learned from accidents to provide better knowledge about accidents and to support more efficient safety activities. One way to describe and set out a lessons learning system in this context is to divide the corresponding process into the following steps: *1 Knowledge creation (by collection and analysis of experience data)*, *2. Knowledge storage and dissemination*, *3. Knowledge use*, and *4. Process evaluation*.

The knowledge production could be based on both historical and recently collected information from relevant accidents and incidents. This information should emanate from epidemiological data (statistical records etc.) and episodic and narrative data (accident investigations etc.). Next step is to disseminate the knowledge and make it accessible through, for example: libraries, databases, mass media, education and training courses and by contributing to systematically learning loops.

To use the knowledge created from experiences, double loop learning should be utilised. The first loop could be directly implemented in some appropriate step in the safety management process and contribute to improvement. The second loop could reflect and assess the whole safety management process and especially the objectives and the risk management context. The need to evaluate and make lessons learned of the lessons learning system should also be realised in order to make advancement in this kind of learning processes.

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