

The Health & Safety Obstacle Course

Viv Turner



Who is this man?

I am British, ex Army (Royal Engineers) with over 40 years experience in construction and specialist contracting.

I have a few qualifications: -

HNC – Construction Technology and also qualified in Explosive Demolition, Industrial Rope Access (and rope access rescue), Confined Space Rescue, Disaster Management and Recovery – and a few other things

MSc – Occupational & Environmental Health & Safety Management

MSc – Risk Management

I am currently studying for a Masters Degree in Environmental Law

and some honorifics: -

FIIRSM, CMIOSH, MCIEH, MIAI, RSP

Food for Thought

- ▶ **Keep your thoughts positive,**
- ▶ **because your thoughts become your words.**
- ▶ **Keep your words positive,**
- ▶ **because your words become your behavior.**
- ▶ **Keep your behavior positive,**
- ▶ **because your behaviors become your habits.**
- ▶ **Keep your habits positive,**
- ▶ **because your habits become your values.**
- ▶ **Keep your values positive,**
- ▶ **because your values become your destiny.**
- ▶ *Mahatma Gandhi*

The Health & Safety Obstacle Course

Just when you think you are winning So its back to the drawing board

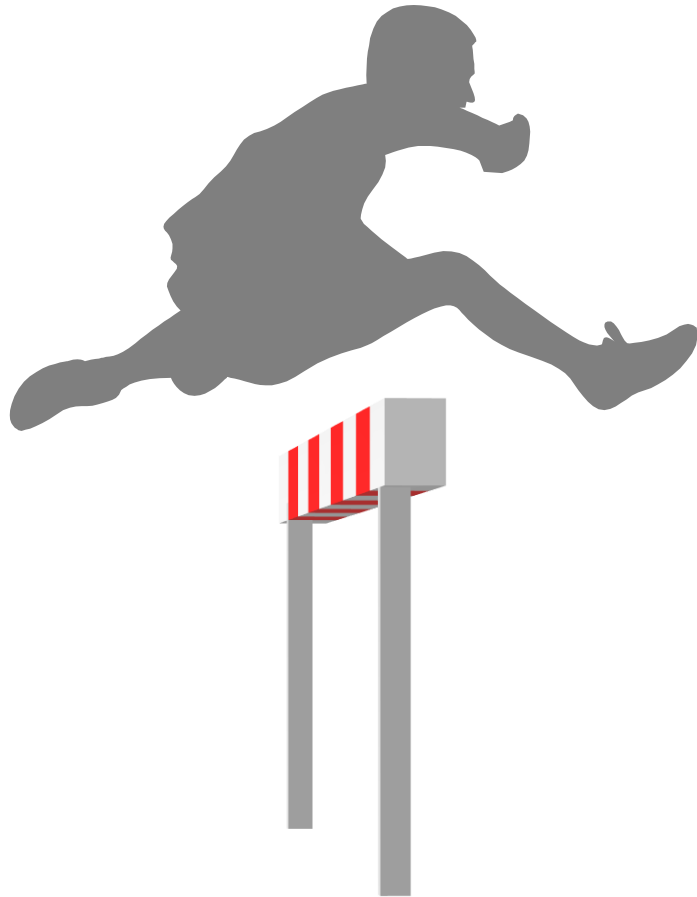
Something comes along to make
you think again – sadly that is
usually in the form of an
accident

Even if you have only just
shown someone what to do,
they will do their own thing as
soon as you walk away



**The obstacles will keep
appearing unless you
control them**

Jumping Over Obstacles



Risk Management

This is (or should be) a common factor in all projects, but the lack of Project Risk Management can result in delays, losses etc. that **WILL** impact safety.

Quality Management

This will be covered by Mark Stephens

What is Project Risk Management

- *Project risk* is an uncertain event or condition that, if it occurs, has an effect on at least one project objective.
- *Risk management* focuses on identifying and assessing the risks to the project and managing those risks to minimize the impact on the project.

Project Obstacles

Set Up

Focus will be on moving forward to the mobilization phase and getting people in place. Too many opportunities are missed and too many of the wrong people employed.

Mobilisation

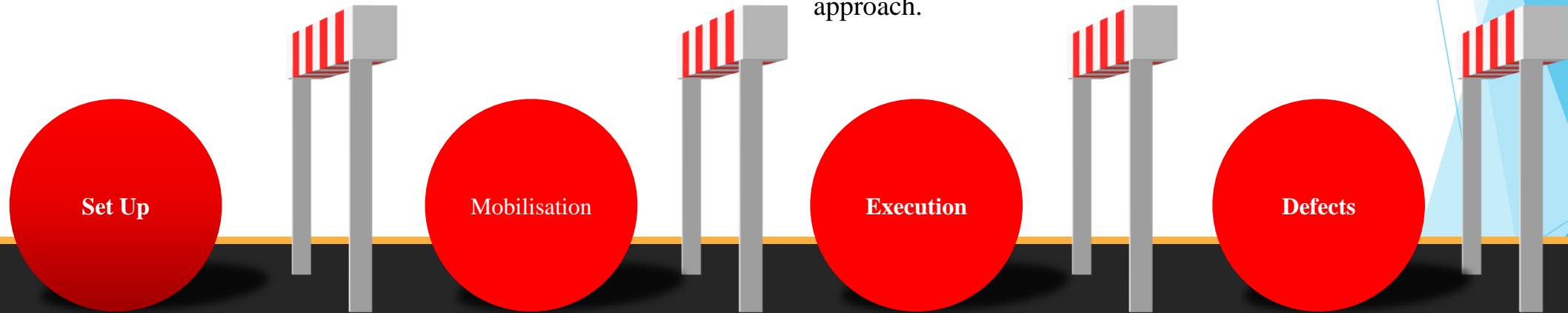
The focus shifts to setting up the site, lots going on except communication, resulting in too many people not knowing what is going on or what will happen next.

Execution

Quite often with a major increase in manpower, many people new to site and far too many new to the company, there are no common standards or approach.

Defects

The bulk of the work is over and the manpower has been reduced dramatically. Everyone relaxes A **DANGEROUS TIME – RARELY RECOGNISED.**



Removing Project Obstacles

Set Up

Get procedures etc. in place before the start of work on site – **AND MAKE SURE THE CONSTRUCTION TEAM ARE AWARE OF THEM**

Mobilisation

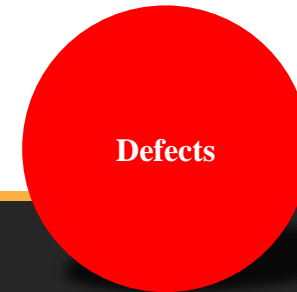
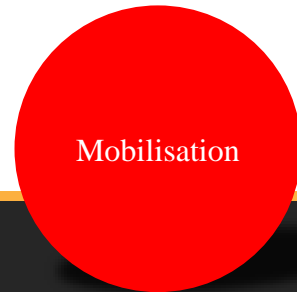
Ensure that procedures are implemented **FROM THE START** and **KEEP CHECKING** that the construction team **ADHERE TO THEM**

Execution

CHECK them **EDUCATE** and **KEEP CHECKING** and **RE-EDUCATE** as many times as necessary **UNTIL IT BECOMES SECOND NATURE**

Defects

Possibly one of the most dangerous phases because everyone has **RELAXED** – **The time to relax is WHEN THE SITE HAS BEEN CLOSED – AND NOT BEFORE!!!**



People Obstacles

Lack of Experience

Lack of Knowledge

Zero Safety Culture

Peer (or Fear) Pressure



Food for Thought

- ▶ **Tell me and I may forget**
- ▶ **Show me and I may remember.**
- ▶ **Involve me and I will understand.**
- ▶ *Confucius*

Removing People Obstacles

Lack of Experience

This can only be gained over time, everything that involves us becomes a new experience – as long as we learn from it.

Lack of Knowledge

Knowledge is important, but it remains as data unless we learn to apply it properly.

Zero Safety Culture

Although it is second nature, people fail to apply this in work situations

Peer (or Fear) Pressure

Something seen all too often – workers trying to impress or in fear for their jobs simply do the wrong thing.



Safety Officer Obstacles

Limited Experience

You must understand your limitations in order to be effective.

A lack of or limited experience in a particular situation or process can lead to poor decisions being made.

Limited Knowledge

You must understand your limitations in order to be effective.

A lack of or limited knowledge of H&S requirements can lead to poor or the **WRONG** decision being made.

Application Failure

Your role is to advise and assist in order to promote safe practice.

To do this effectively you must **UNDERSTAND** how to achieve **Legal Compliance**.

Fail to Communicate

Good communication is an essential part of your role.

You must be able to deal with people, and help them see what you need them to do, not shy away from them and leave it to someone else.



Limited Experience

Limited Knowledge

Application Failure

Weak Under Pressure

Removing Your Obstacles

Limited Experience

Experience comes with time – **your** experience can help **others**, just as **theirs** can help you.

Get out their, gain experience and gain knowledge, talk to **and listen to** your colleagues in the Construction Team.

Limited Knowledge

READ, UNDERSTAND and ASK QUESTIONS. The only **STUPID** question is the **ONE YOU DON'T ASK**
You **MUST** understand **QCS 2014** and **Standard Operating Procedures** as they are the basis for all safety in Qatar.

Application Failure

REMEMBER - you are a Safety professional – **NOT** a **POLICEMAN.**
Understand your role and do it to the best of your ability at **ALL** times. You can relax when you get on the bus, but **NOT** before.

Fail to Communicate

Be honest with yourself and your colleagues.
Set a good example at **ALL** times, help to **LEAD** and others **WILL** follow
IF you are having a problem, or your are struggling to cope – **GET HELP**



Limited Experience

Limited Knowledge

Application Failure

Weak Under Pressure

In safety terms –

**FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION, SAFETY MANAGEMENT IS A TEAM EVENT
– WORK TOGETHER TO MINIMISE WEAKNESS and AVOID FAILURE**

Removing the Obstacles

The only way to stand a chance of removing these obstacles is first to identify them and then apply control measures (and/or contingencies), but it doesn't stop there – you need to keep checking that they haven't been replaced (or developed into something else).



Food for Thought

- ▶ **Safety is not a set of rules – it is a way of life.**
- ▶ **To improve safety you have to improve understanding.**
- ▶ *Viv Turner*