



# Human & Organizational Performance (HOP) & Serious Injuries & Fatalities (SIF)



# About Me

Michael Tannehill

Safety & Industrial Hygiene Consultant



614-890-0800 ext 220



University of Central Missouri  
• BS Occ. Health & Safety  
CSP – January '26



Anheuser-Busch  
• Corporate EHS – 2 years  
• Columbus Brewery – 3 years  
Safex  
• ~2 years



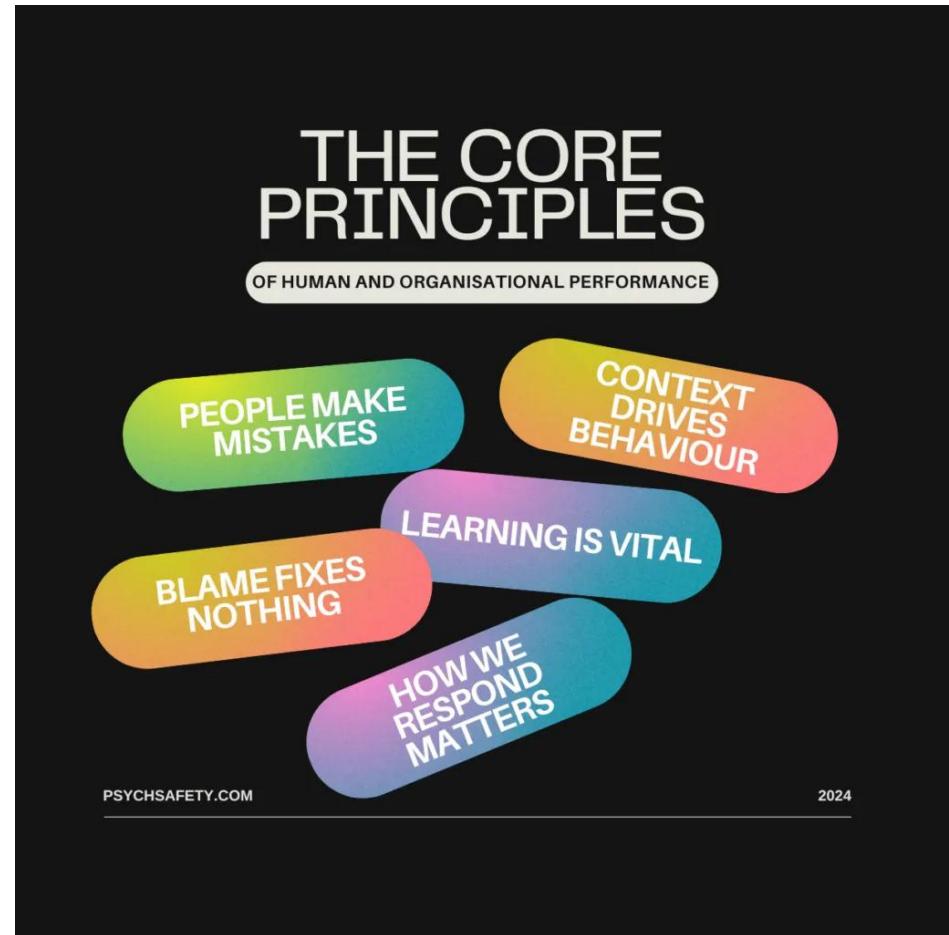
Guitar  
Twin

# What is HOP?

- Human & Organizational Performance (HOP)
- Humans are fallible and can make mistakes
- HOP shifts the focus from blaming individuals for problems and shifts the focus to understanding and improving organizational systems

- Traditional = *Fix the person*
- HOP = *Fix the system*



# What is HOP?



- Human & Organizational Performance (HOP)
  1. Error is normal
  2. Blame fixes nothing
  3. Context drives behavior
  4. Learning is Vital
  5. Leadership Response Matters
- Shifting blame away from the individual and focusing on the systemic and contextual cause



# Mindsets -Traditional vs. HOP



- Traditional Approach
  - Compliance/Rule Enforcement
  - Zero Errors
  - Investigation = “Who’s fault is it?”
  - Safety = absence of incidents
  - Discipline driven
- HOP Approach
  - Learning & System Improvement
  - Human error will happen
  - Investigation = “Why did the system allow the error?”
  - Safety = Presence of safeguards
  - Resilience driven



# Example

- Scenario: A maintenance tech suffers a hand injury while replacing a conveyor belt. The conveyor was not locked out, which allowed the belt to move while the tech was performing work.

## Traditional

- Investigation focus:
  - Technician failed to follow LOTO procedures
- Root cause:
  - Technician was complacent
- Corrective actions:
  - Discipline tech for LOTO failure
  - Retrain tech on LOTO
  - Post more signage on performing LOTO on conveyors

## HOP

- Investigation focus:
  - Technician failed to follow LOTO procedures
- Root cause:
  - Pressure to restart line quickly to meet production goals
  - LOTO devices far away
  - SOP difficult to find
- Corrective actions:
  - Train supervisors on balancing safety & productivity
  - Store LOTO tools near equipment/on cart
  - Place LOTO SOP at the equipment

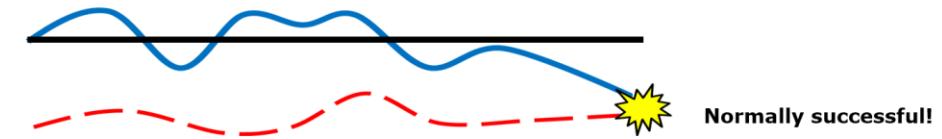


# HOP Risk Assessment



- Work As Planned vs. Work As Practiced
  - Planned – How we think the job is done
  - Practiced – How the job is actually done
- Risk lives in the gap

**Work as planned**  
vs.  
**work in practice**



**"Workers are masters of the blue line."**

- Conklin/Edwards



# HOP Risk Assessment



- How do I close the gap?
  - Learning Teams
    - “Walk me through a typical job”
    - “What if X happens?”
    - “What if X isn’t available?”
    - “What would make this safer & easier for you without slowing you down?”
    - “What’s the biggest risk of this job?”
    - “What conditions today made the job harder or slower?”
  - Gather & document responses & implement corrective actions based on Work As Practiced and incorporate into Work as Planned (SOPs, training, 5S, etc.)

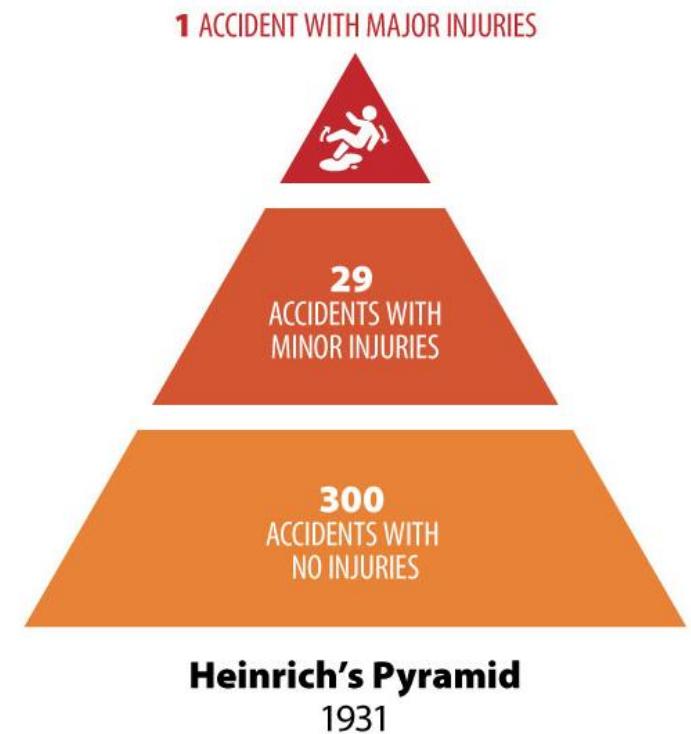


# What does this have to do with SIFs?

# A Little History

Heinrich's Pyramid (1931)

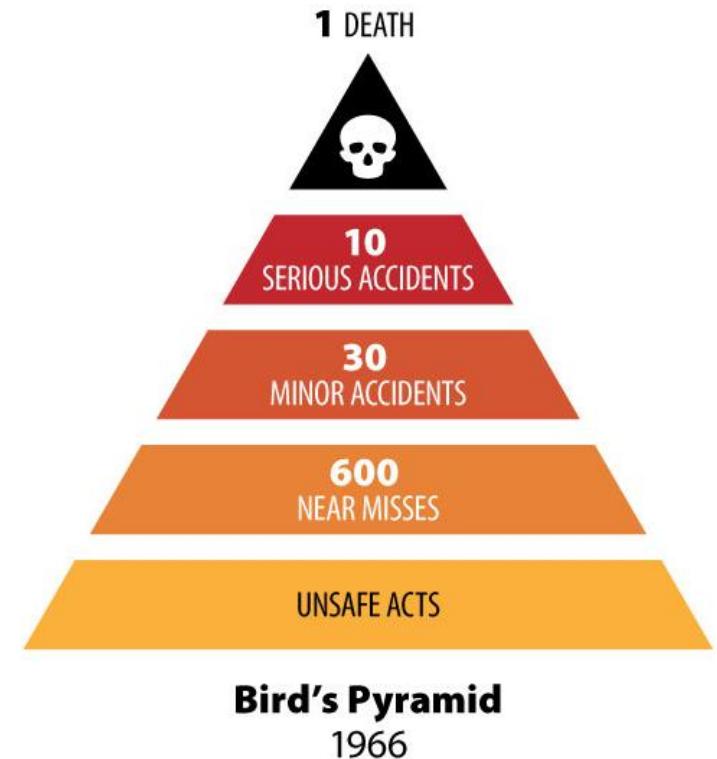
- William Heinrich
- 1931 publish theory in *Industrial Accident Prevention: A Scientific Approach*.
- Focuses on human actions as cause of injuries
- 88% of accidents are caused by the unsafe acts of persons.



# A Little History

Bird's Pyramid (1966)

- Frank Bird
- One fatality for every 600 near misses
- Focusing on near misses or first aids leads to a reduction of severe injuries or fatalities (SIF).



# What does the data show?

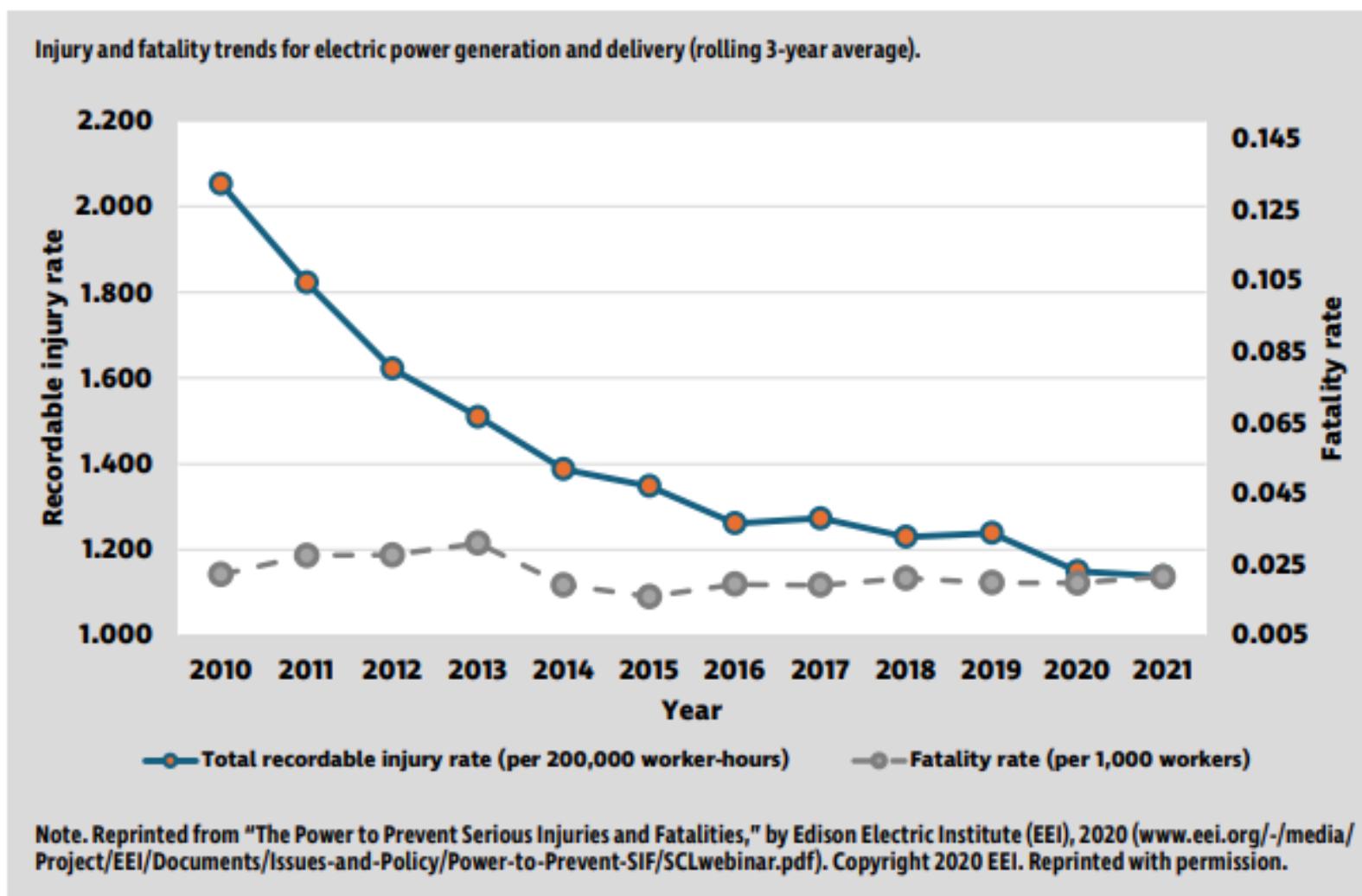
- Since 1970s/1980s injury prevention in the U.S. has been focused on reducing **near misses** and **first aids** with the goal of **reducing injuries and fatalities**.
- We have been successful in reducing minor injuries and the TRIR, BUT....the data shows something else.

# SIF vs TRIR



FIGURE 1

## POWER GENERATION & DELIVERY INJURY & FATALITY TRENDS



# What Does This Mean?

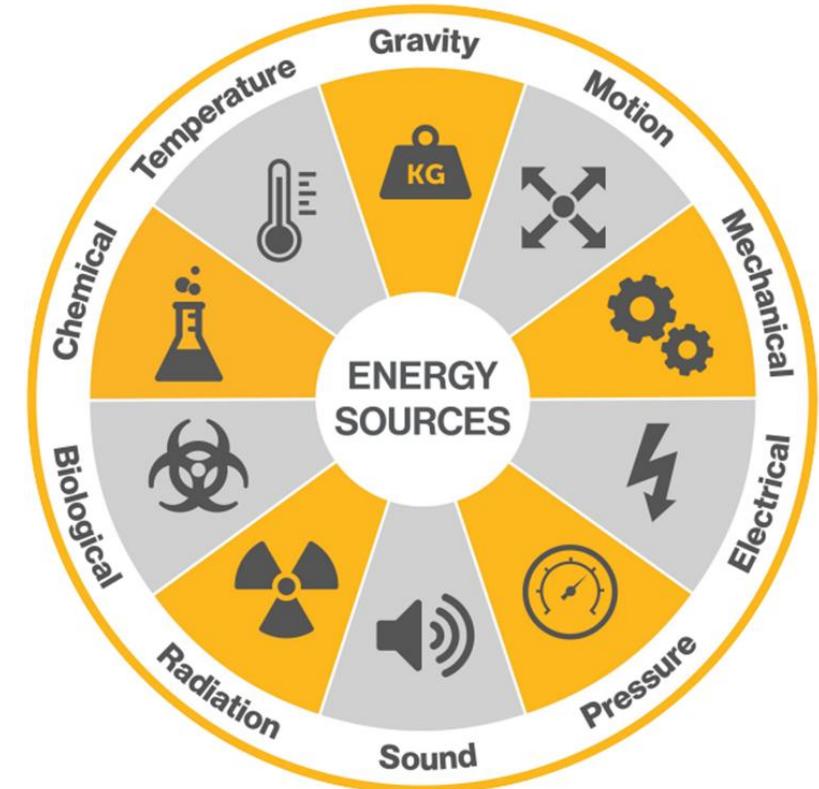
- Traditional approach has reduced injuries and recordables and driven down workers' compensation claims and lost productivity.
  - SIF prevention and causes are different from low severity prevention and causes
  - Keep doing what you are doing...BUT
- We need a new (different) approach to reduce the risk of SIFs.

# How do you define “SIF”?

- SIF: Incidents that are considered life threatening, life altering, or lead to death
- What's the difference between a *severe* injury vs. a “regular” injury?
- The magnitude of the energy involved

# Energy Approach

- Greater Energy = Greater Severity
  - Examples:
    - Falling at floor level vs. falling 20 feet
    - Contact with hydraulic fluid vs. contact with 50% caustic
  - What energy is present?
  - Is it enough to cause serious injury?



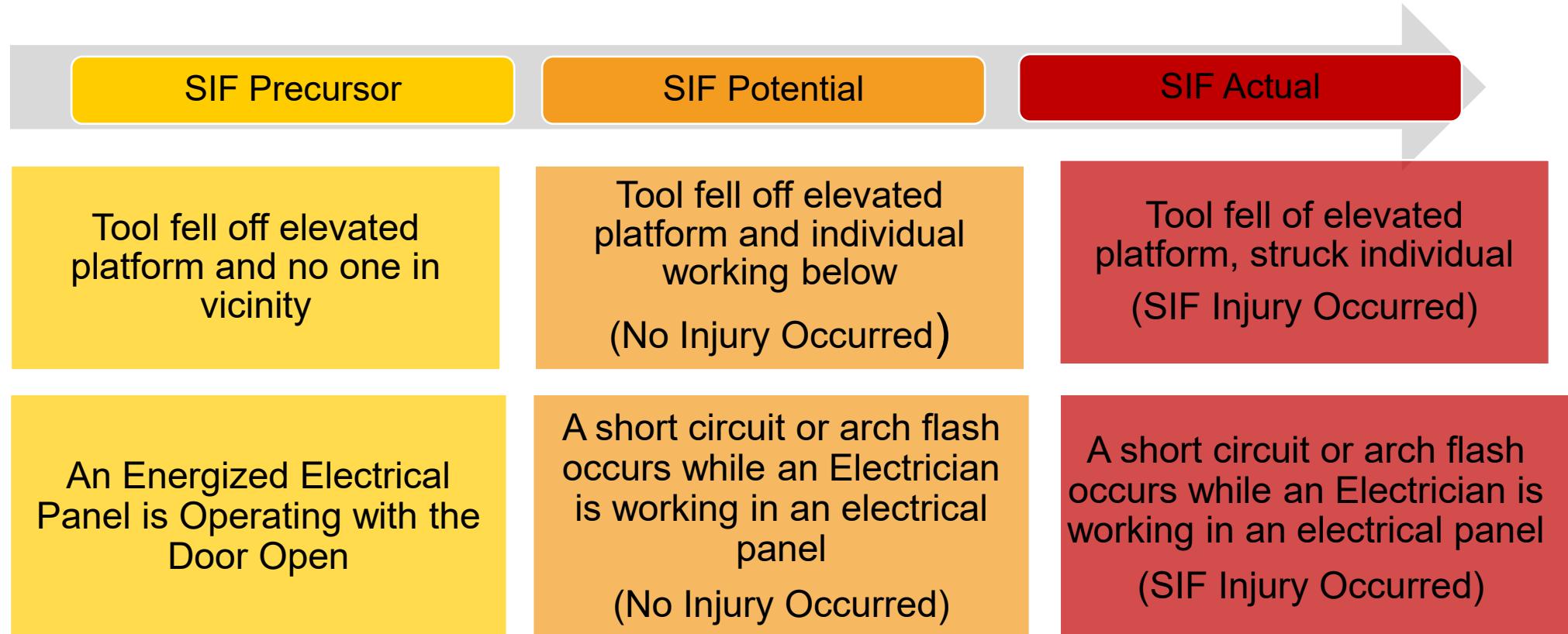
# SIF Precursor/Potential



- Near miss, incident, or hazardous condition that, given slightly different circumstances, could have resulted in severe injury or fatality

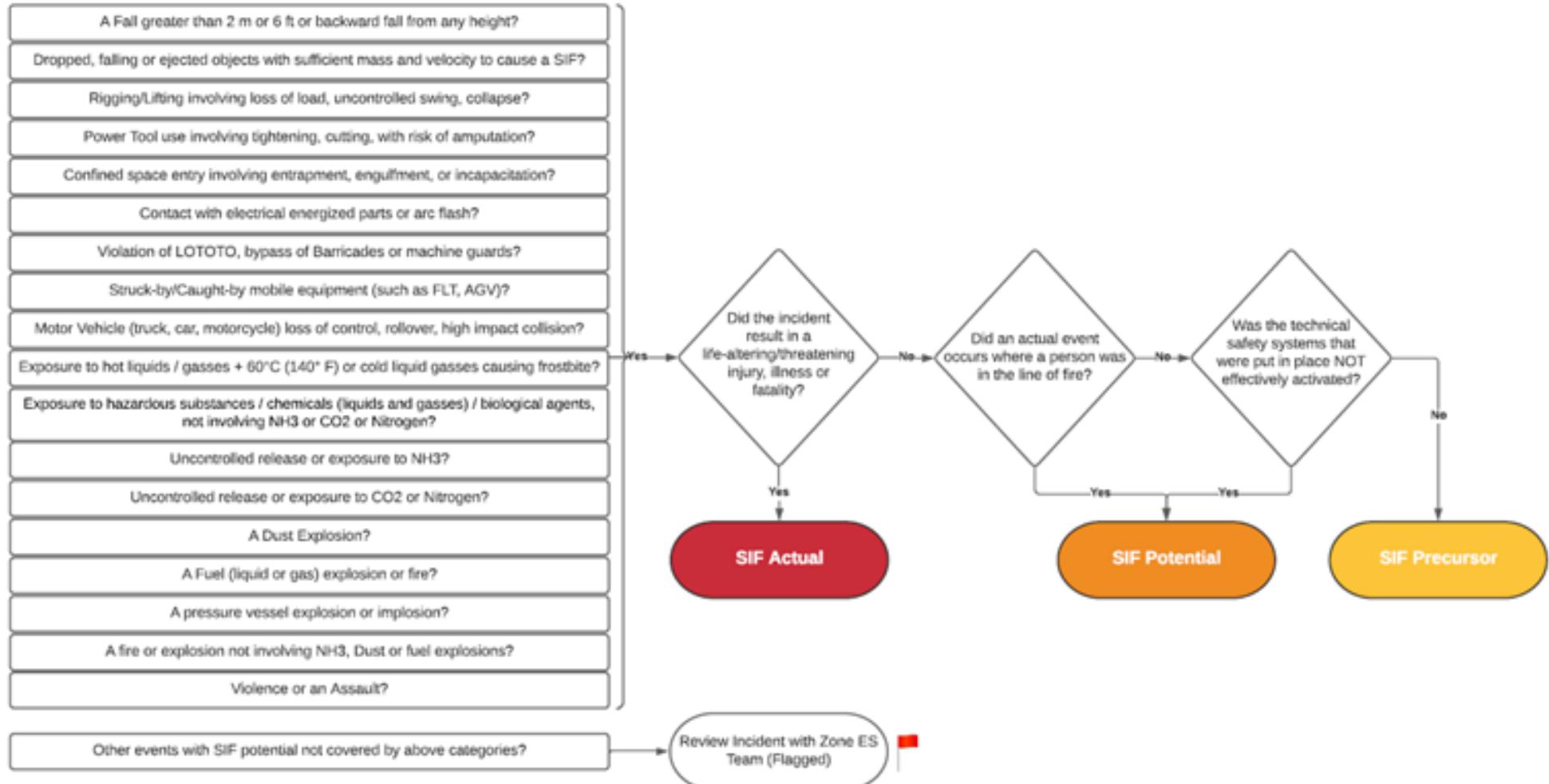


# SIF Precursor/Potential



# SIF Decision Tree

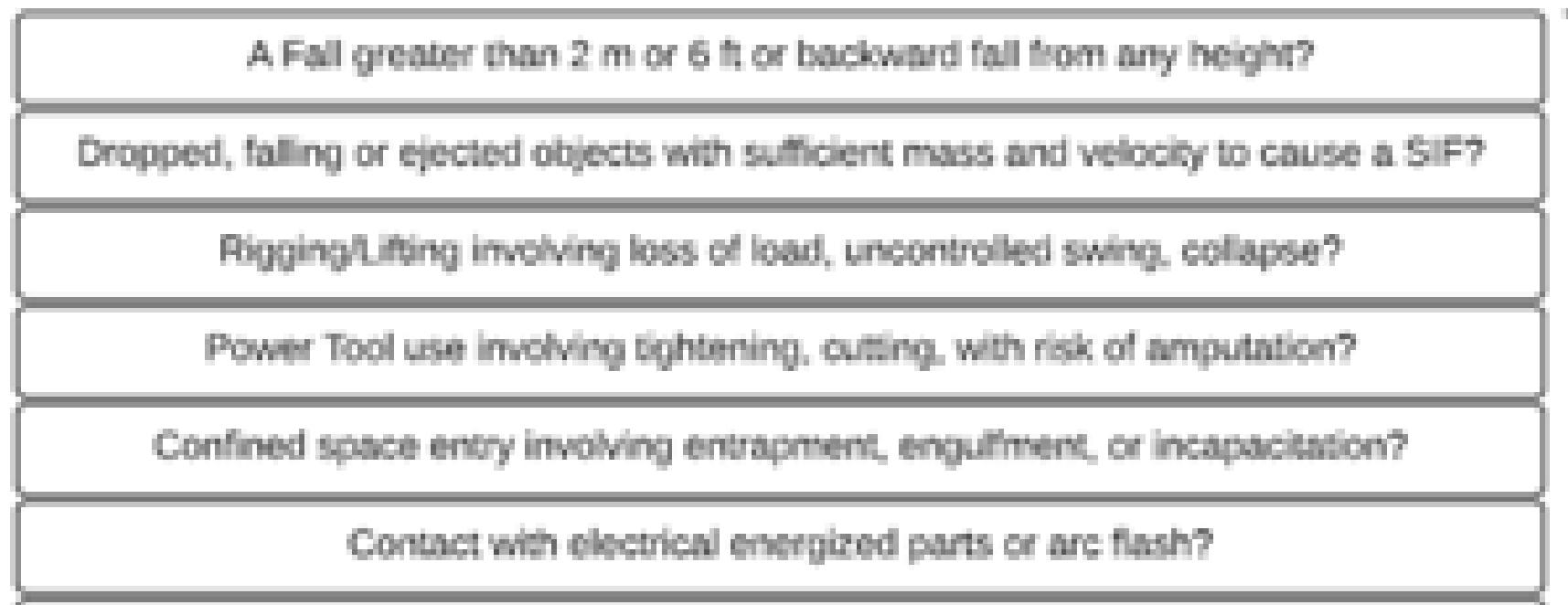
- The **SIF Decision Tree** can help define if an event results in a SIF Actual, SIF Potential or SIF Precursor



# SIF Decision Tree

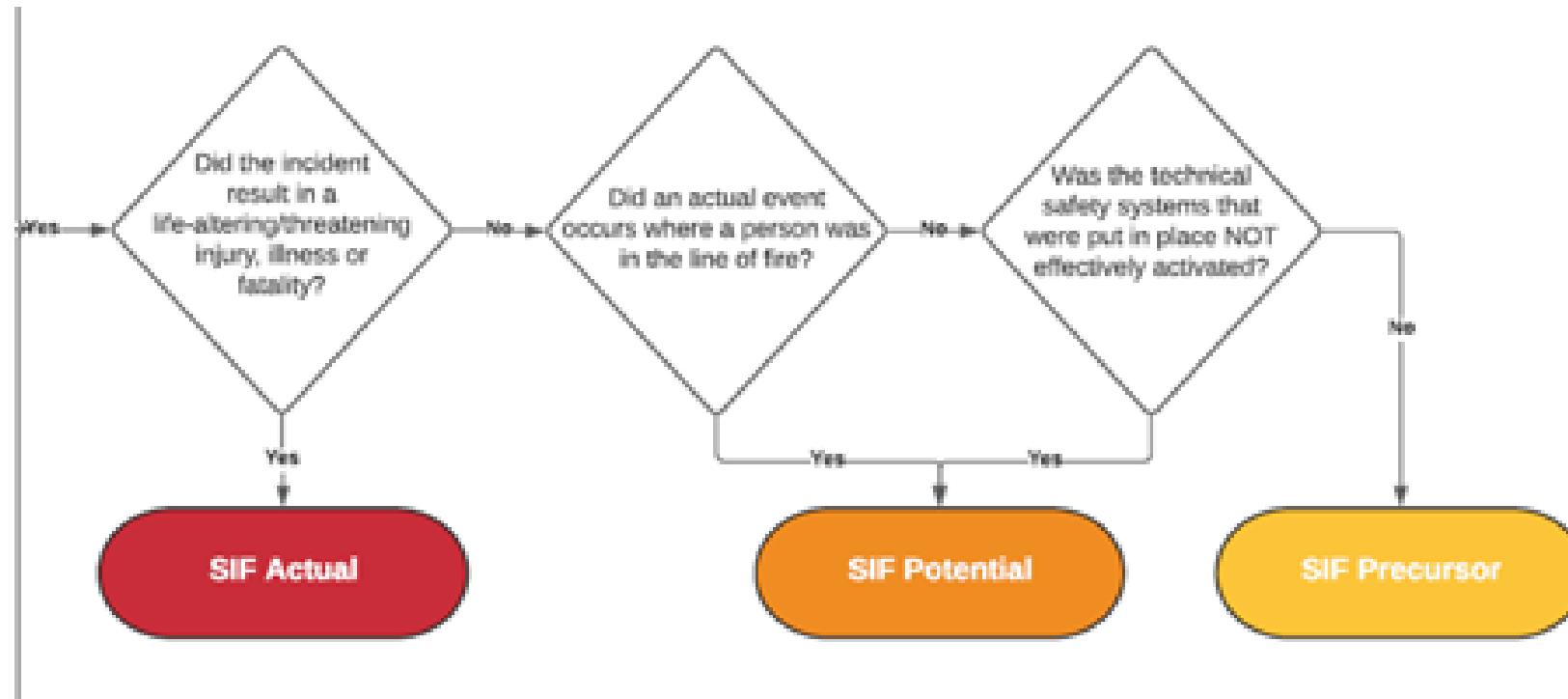


- The **SIF Decision Tree** can help define if an event results in a SIF Actual, SIF Potential or SIF Precursor



# SIF Decision Tree

- The **SIF Decision Tree** can help define if an event results in a SIF Actual, SIF Potential or SIF Precursor



# Life Saving “Golden Rules”

**The 6 Life Saving Golden Rules are based on statistical SIF analysis from the past incidents:**

- 1) SAM & LOTOTO:** I will always verify proper isolation of hazardous energy by performing LOTOTO or SAM before accessing equipment and/or working on live equipment
  
- 2) Hazardous Substances:** I will always handle hazardous substances only if I understand the hazards and implement the control measures defined to mitigate the risks
  
- 3) Working at Heights:** I will always use the proper fall protection equipment while working at heights

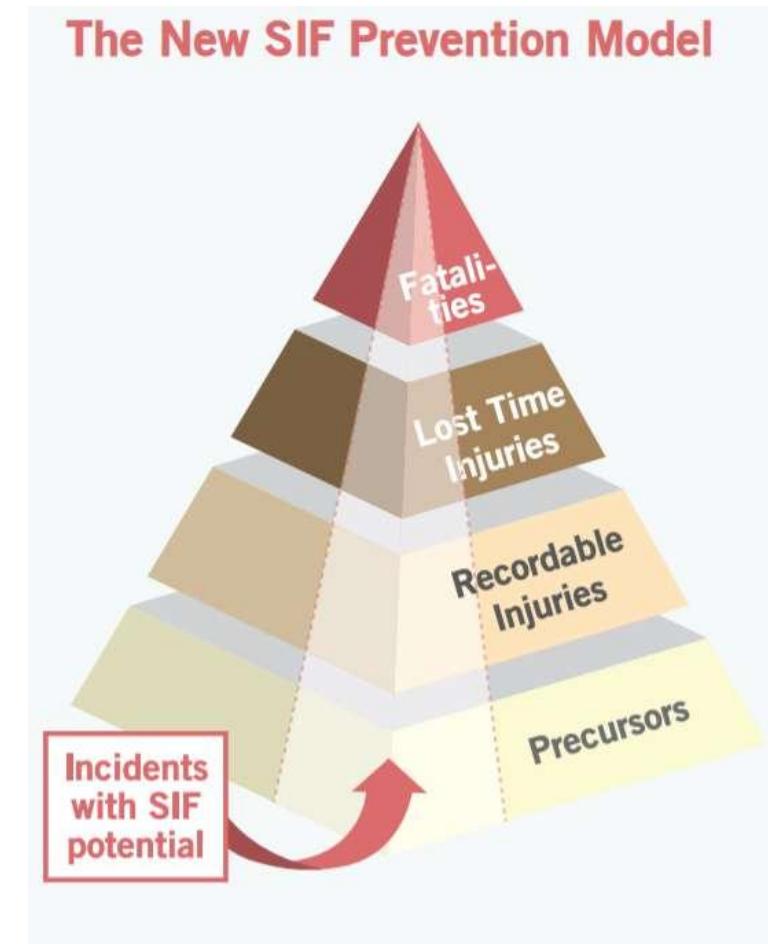
# Life Saving “Golden Rules”

**The 6 Life Saving Golden Rules are based on statistical SIF analysis from the past incidents:**

- 4) **Electricity:** I will always work on electricity only if I am qualified, understand the hazards and implement the control measures defined to mitigate the risks
- 5) **Work Permit:** I will always work with a validated Work Permit for high risk tasks and ensure all Front Line Team Members mitigate the risks by applying the requirements of the Work Permit
- 6) **Vehicles:** I will always keep to the minimal safety distance between vehicles and/or pedestrian

# HOP & SIF

- Identify SIF or SIF Potential interactions (tasks, jobs, etc.)
- Utilize HOP risk assessment approach to identify circumstances where these interactions occur
- Implement controls based upon results of the risk assessment



# Resources

- TapRoot – [HOP Practical Guide](#)
- National Safety Council – [SIF](#)
- [Energy Based Safety](#) – Matthew Howe, SafetyFunction



