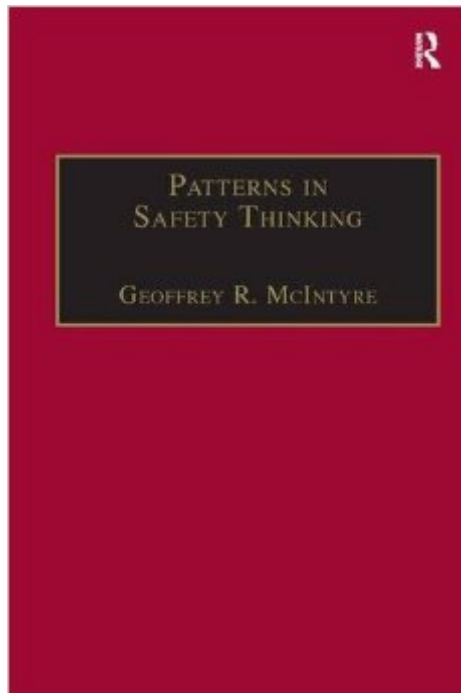


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Patterns In Safety Thinking: A Literature Guide To Air Transportation Safety



Synopsis

Safety is more than the absence of accidents. Safety has the goal of transforming the levels of risk that are inherent in all human activity, while its interdisciplinary nature extends its influence far into most corporate management and government regulatory actions. Yet few engineers have attended a safety course, conference or even a lecture in the area, suggesting that those responsible for the safe construction and operation of complex high-risk socio-technical systems are inadequately prepared. This book is designed to meet the expressed needs of aviation safety management trainees for a practical and concise education supplement to the safety literature. Written in a highly readable and accessible style, its features include: • detailed analysis of the forward-looking System Safety approach, with its focus on accident prevention; • classification of transportation safety literature into distinct schools of thought (Tort Law, Reliability Engineering, System Safety Engineering); • real world, practical, illustrations of the theory; • the history, theory and practice of safety management; • inter-disciplinary thinking about safety. The flying public is faced with a bewildering array of aviation safety data from a diverse and ever increasing number of sources. This book is an essential guide to the available information, and a major contribution to the international public debate on aviation safety.

Book Information

Hardcover: 148 pages

Publisher: Routledge; New edition edition (June 28, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0754613224

ISBN-13: 978-0754613220

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 9.2 x 6.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,750,368 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Reference >

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Customer Reviews

Geoff McIntyre faced the classic problem in summarization - make it too long and no one will read it,

make it too short and it will not do justice to the subject. In keeping his essay to a easily readable 131 pages, but with enough depth to give useful insights, McIntyre has resolved his writing conundrum nicely. Looking at the subject through the triple lens of Tort Law, Reliability and System Safety is helpful, too. He cites a good number of references, including some I was not familiar with; as a researcher, this alone was worth the price of the book. Any criticisms that I might have about unevenness are minor in the face of the breadth of the research that McIntyre lays on the table for the reader. Indeed, affording the myriad of authors their fair due must have been one of the most difficult tasks McIntyre faced. A few minor errors here and there are not fatal to the book, its message or its credibility. I'm not apologizing for them; knowledgeable, critical or careful readers always need to stay on their toes. All said, this volume adds much more to a bookshelf than the slender space it takes up and I unreservedly recommend it to anyone who is serious in the field of safety, especially aviation safety. I cannot agree more with the author's central thesis that "safety is more than the absence of accidents." This is a concise restatement of Bannister's Law: "The difference in circumstances between a small and a very large loss is often marginal." There is a world of wisdom in that statement.

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