



POTENTIAL SERIOUS INCIDENTS TOOLBOX TALK

May 2020



WHAT IS A PSI?

- » Potentially Serious Incident (PSI) = Any event where a reasonable and informed person would determine that under slightly different circumstances, there would be a high likelihood for a serious injury to a person.
- » “Under slightly different circumstances” refers to conditions such as timing, distance, body position, etc.
- » Other definitions you may be familiar with:
 - Hazard IDs - Incidents - Events
 - Near Misses - Injuries
 - Serious Injury or Fatality Potential (SIF or SIFP)
 - High Potential Incidents (HiPo)

DETERMINING IF AN EVENT IS A PSI

- » To help determine if an event is a PSI:
 - The actual circumstances at the time of the event
 - Similar incidents that have occurred in the past
 - Consider the impact of slightly different circumstances
 - Evaluate controls

CONSIDER ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- » Actual circumstances at the time of the incident are important so the incident can be assessed in a reasonable context.
- » If an incident occurs that is similar to one which resulted in a serious injury or fatality in recent years and the controls in place were not sufficient to protect persons from the hazardous energy, *this is a PSI*.
 - This indicates that either no controls were instituted or the controls put in place after the initial serious injury were not effective in mitigating future incidents.
- » It is easy to become caught up in “what-if” scenarios that are not applicable to what actually happened or what could have happened.
- » Always err on the side of caution and report any hazardous circumstances to the appropriate supervisor.

CONSIDER SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES

» To help determine if an event is a PSI, ask the following...

Would the consequence have been a severe injury or fatality if:

- The event had occurred on a different day, hour or minute than it did?
 - Some distance, angle or other parameter was slightly different at the time of the event?
 - The person had been crouched over, kneeling, standing up or standing in a slightly different spot at the time of the event?
- » **If yes**, then controls must be evaluated as the final step in determining whether this incident was a PSI.

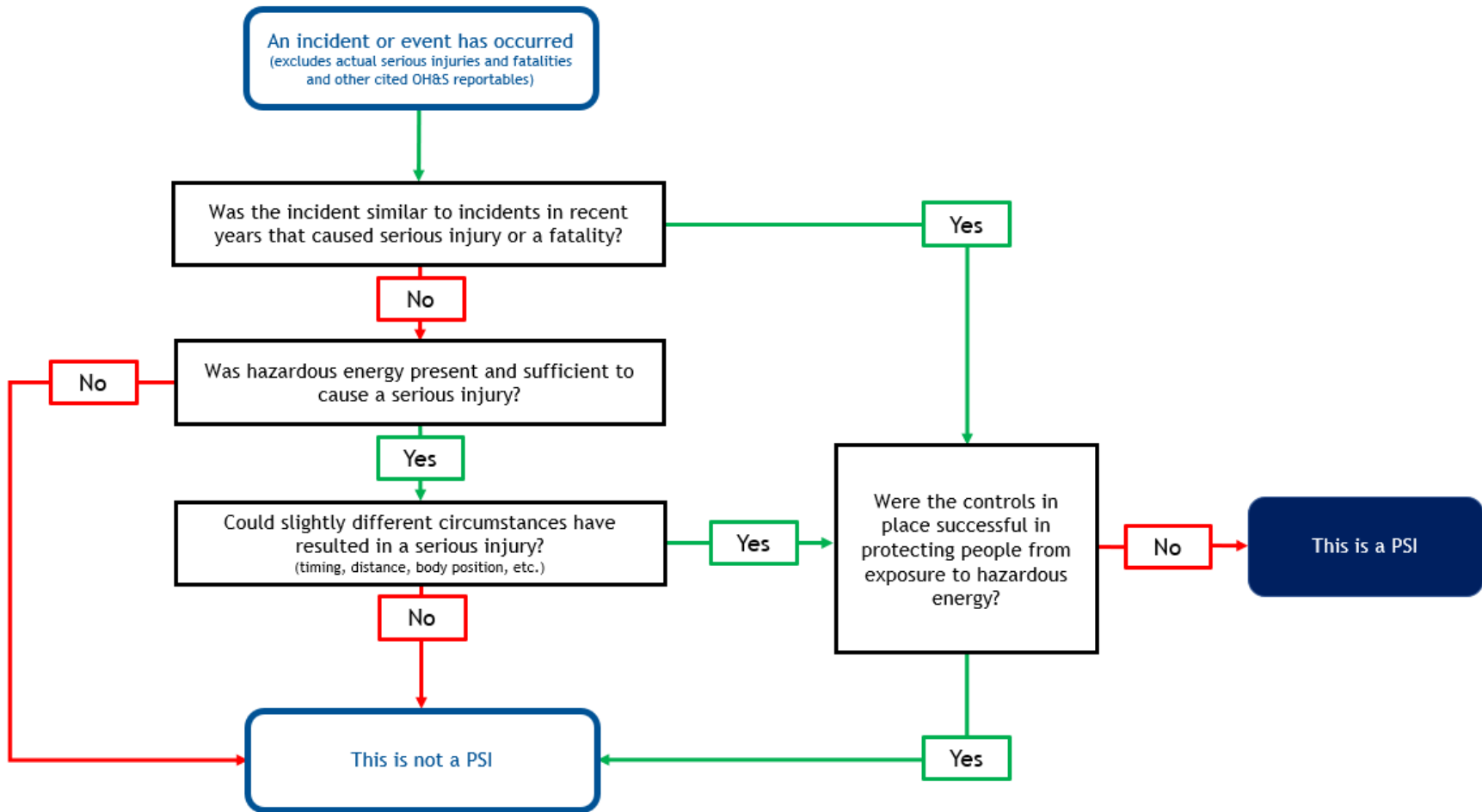
EVALUATE APPROPRIATE CONTROLS

- » The use of adequate controls is an important element in the identification of a PSI. If adequate controls to protect the person from hazardous energy were not in place, it is a PSI.

- » Examples:
 - A worker is wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) when exposed to a harmful substance in concentrations above IDLH concentrations. There is an adequate control, as work in an IDLH atmosphere requires the use of SCBA. Therefore, *this is not a PSI.*

 - A suspended load falls and hits the ground within the exclusion zone. No workers are present because everyone is aware of and adheres to the exclusion zone, and the exclusion zone is enforced. *This is not a PSI.*

PSI DECISION TREE



QUESTIONS AND RESOURCES

» Questions:

- What does this mean to you on your work site?
- What is our company's experience with identifying and reporting PSIs?
- Why is it important to identify and report PSIs?

» Resources:

- Energy Safety Canada's [Potentially Serious Incident Guideline](#)
- Alberta Labour and Immigration's Bulletin, [Reporting and Investigating Potentially Serious Incidents](#)