



# A Strategic Approach to the Application of Occupied Building Risk Assessment



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# BakerRisk – Who Are We?

- Employee Owned
- Over 100 Engineers and Scientists
- Over 30-years Experience “Providing Solutions to Manage Hazards and Risks”



San Antonio, Houston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Canada,  
United Kingdom

# Webinar Presenters



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Senior Engineer  
Protective Structures  
BakerRisk (Houston)



**Peter Smith**  
Senior Engineer  
Protective Structures  
BakerRisk (UK)

# Agenda



## 1. Introductions

BakerRisk & presenters



## 2. Risk Management Programmes

Objectives, drivers, scope, key considerations



## 3. Assessment

Brief outline of building risk assessments



## 4. Optioneering

Investigation & evaluation of risk mitigation options



## 5. Implementation

Basis-of-design, development, implementation & validation



## 6. Q&A

Let us fill in any knowledge gaps!



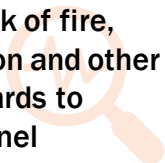
## Risk Management Programmes



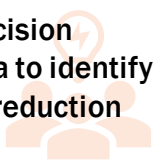
# Programme Objective

**PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE:** Provide solutions to prevent or mitigate potential risk exposures and demonstrate risk is As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP)


## 1 Identify & Evaluate

- Identify hazard scenarios (release cases and other applicable hazards)
  - Evaluate the consequences and associated risk of fire, toxic, explosion and other potential hazards to onsite personnel
- 


## 2 Examine

- Examine the risk profile computed
  - Identify and develop potential options to mitigate risk exposure
  - Implement decision making criteria to identify balanced risk reduction strategy
- 

## 3 Implement

- Implement and commission selected risk mitigation measures
- 

## 4 Review

- Review for additional low-cost risk reduction solutions and demonstrate risk tolerability
- 

# Guidance for Compliance

## Guidance prevalent in the UK/Europe

- **COMAH & Seveso II Regulations**
  - Legislation that requires hazards and risk be assessed
- **Guidance for the Location and Design of Occupied Buildings... (CIA, 2020)**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Edition good practice standard for the siting and design of occupied buildings at chemical and major hazard sites

## Guidance prevalent in the U.S.A.

- **Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals (OSHA - U.S. 29CFR1910.119)**
  - Legislation that requires hazards and risk be assessed
- **API RP 752/753/756**
  - Deal with locating onsite populations (permanent and temporary buildings as well as tents; respectively)



# 3 Key Ways to Reduce Site Risk

## Address the Process

Learn from previous incidents

Switch to inherently safe design

Enhance detection and isolation capabilities

Focus on PSM of high-risk processes

Reduce likelihood of failure

## Address the People

Move non-essential personnel offsite

Move essential personnel to low risk buildings

Enhance PPE and train for emergency response

## Address the Buildings

Upgrade existing buildings

Design / build for hazard or risk profile

Portable Buildings (Trailers, BRMs, etc.)

**FORTRESS**



# Factors & Constraints

## 1 Multiple drivers

Often multiple local stakeholders with differing priorities and constraints.

## 3 Differing complexity

Decision making for the simplest to the most complex and difficult of operational cases.

## 5 Tangible vs. intangible

Overcome bias toward tangible benefits.

## 2 Forecasting

Must align with long-term strategic programmes and initiatives, I.E. master planning.

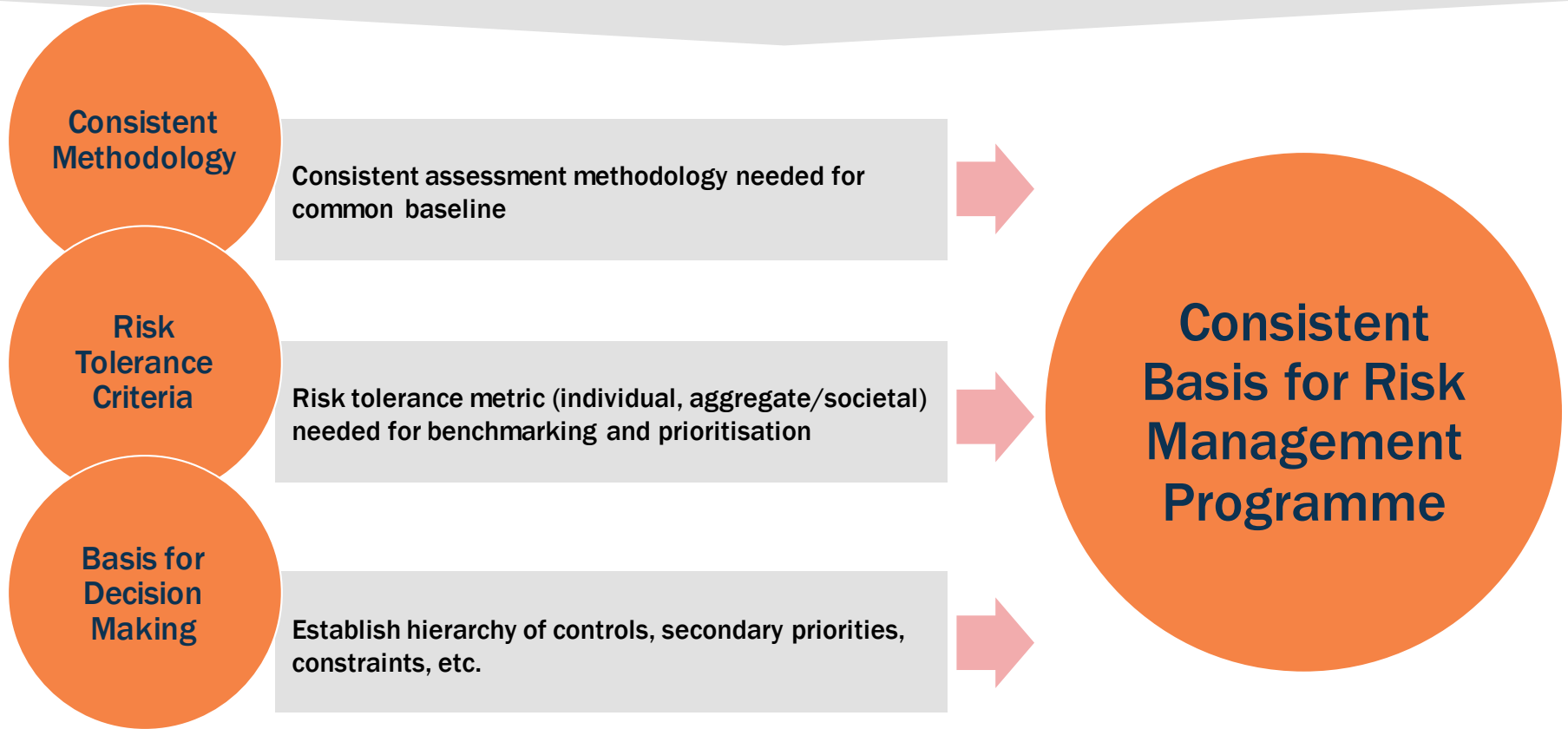
## 4 Emotion quotient

Criteria need to overcome emotionally charged challenges and decision making.

## >>> Basic constraints

Ensure risk is adequately and effectively controlled within funding and time constraints.

# Corporate Standards and Criteria



# Objective Achieved...?

Before:



After:



*Intolerable risk*



*Risk is ALARP*



*Negligible risk*



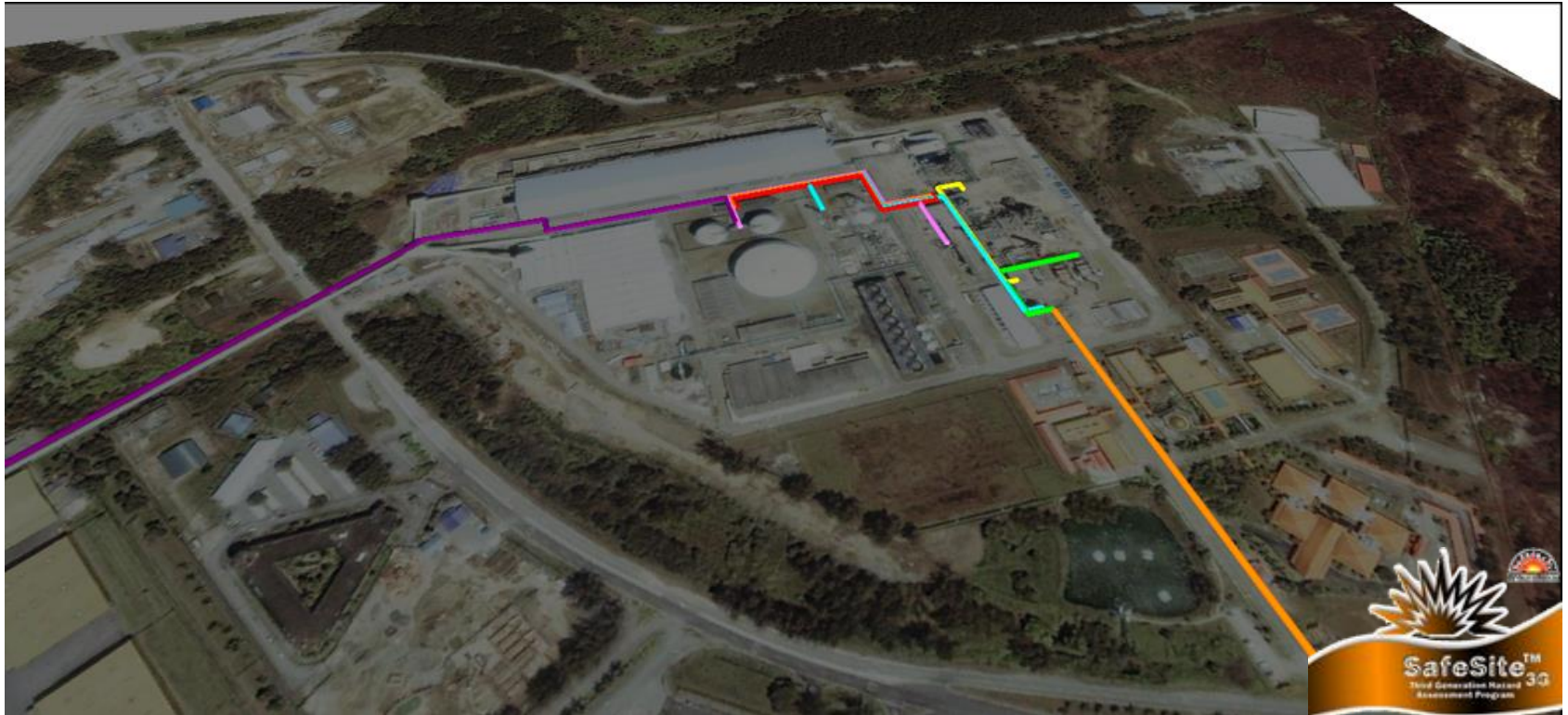
## Building Risk Assessment



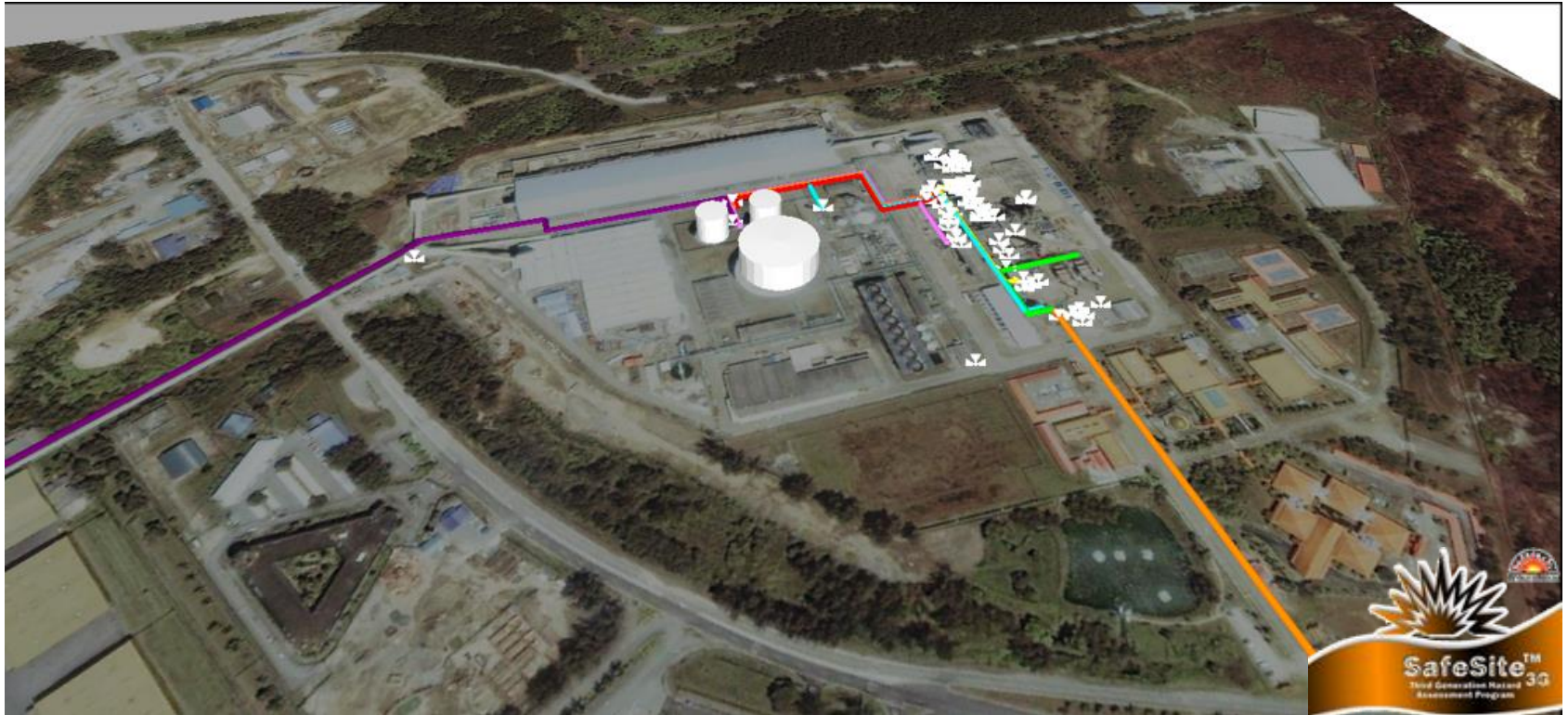
# Hazard Identification & Evaluation



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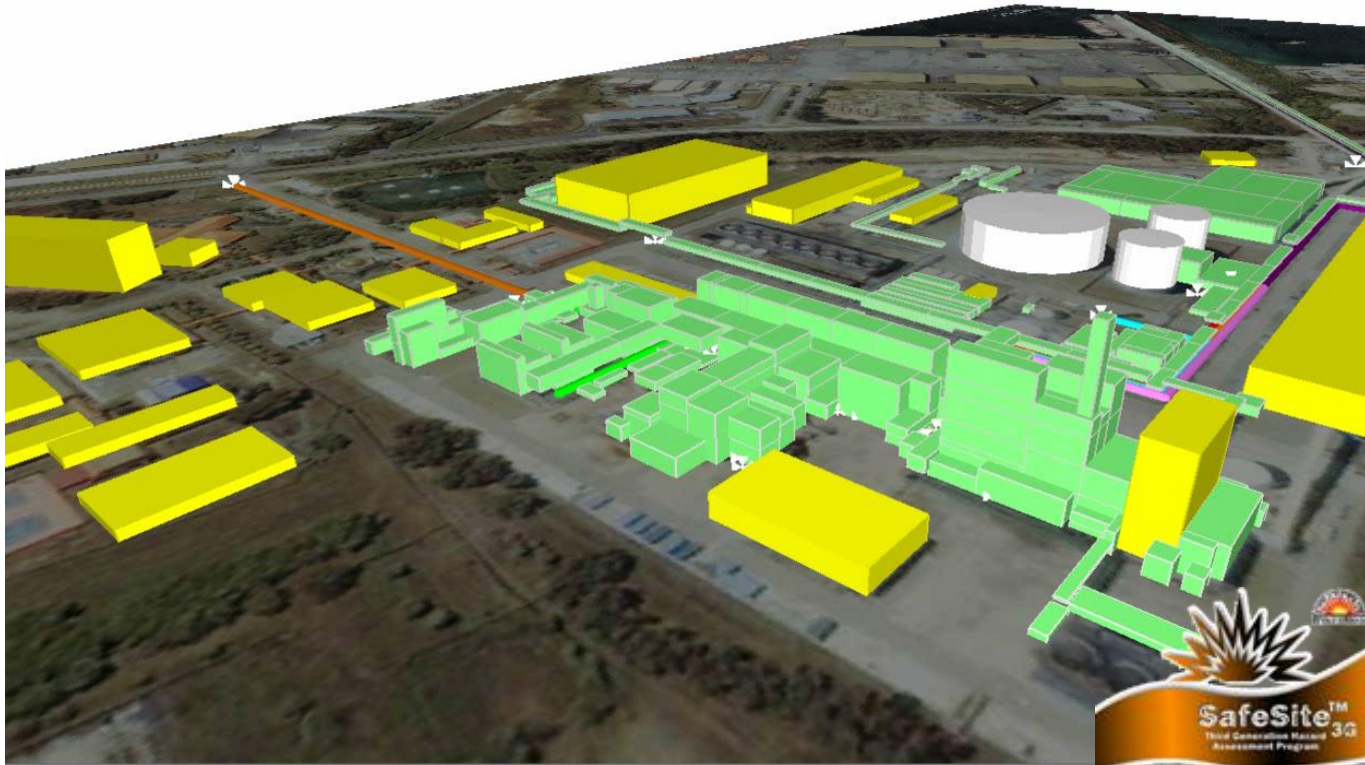




# Hazard Identification & Evaluation



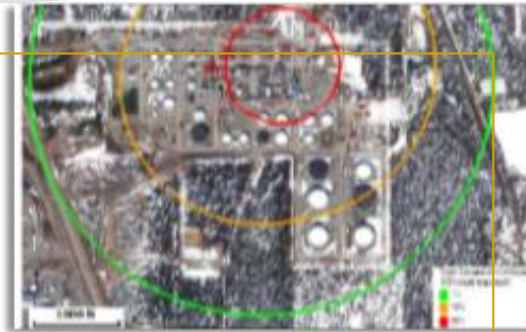
# Hazard Identification & Evaluation



# Hazard Identification & Evaluation



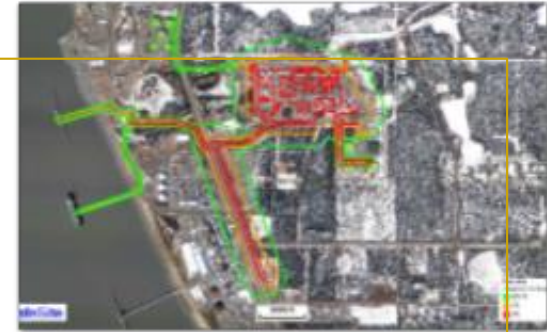
**Blast Overpressure**



**Toxic Dispersion**

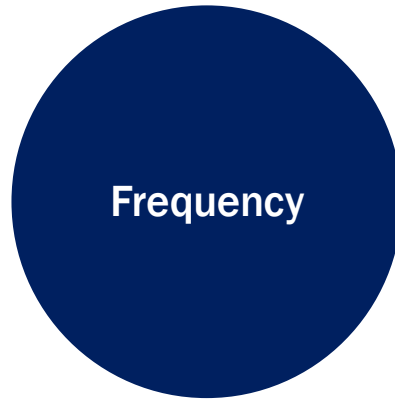


**Thermal Radiation**



**Flammable Dispersion**

# Derivation of Risk



## Identify Scenarios

- Fires
- Explosions
- Toxic releases

## Evaluate Consequences

- Fatalities
- Equipment damage
- Economic losses

## How often do the scenarios occur?

- Frequency of leaks / failure of safeguards, etc.
- Other conditional probabilities (ignition, wind conditions, etc.)

## Main outcome from a Risk Assessment

- Annual probability of death
- Potential fatalities per year
- Different ways to express
  - site-wide risks
  - work group risk
  - etc.

# Common Weaknesses – Limited Scenarios

## Screening out low consequence scenarios:

- COMAH legislation vs. CIA guidance
- Cumulative effect on risk may be significant
- Potential underestimation of risk

## Screening out high consequence scenarios:

- PHA vs. CIA guidance
- Based on low frequency perception
- Potential underestimation of risk

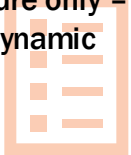
## Neglecting site specific hazards, such as:

- Runaway reactions
- BLEVE
- BPVs
- Fire Box explosions
- Exothermic reactions »» fragmentation

# Common Weaknesses – Blast Damage

## Empirical ( $P_{so}$ )

- Highly expedient
- Generic construction types?
- Based on limited empirical data
- No indication of actual building response – damage prediction defined by pass/fail
- Pass/fail defined by max. tolerable pressure only – no account of dynamic response
- Not repeatable



## Empirical P-i

- Highly expedient
- Generic and broad construction types?
- Based on limited empirical data
- Not repeatable



## SDOF

- Expedient
- Building/ scenario specific modelling
- Complete damage/ response feedback
- Repeatable
- Varying degree of conservatism in damage prediction – tends to conservative
- Experienced practitioners only

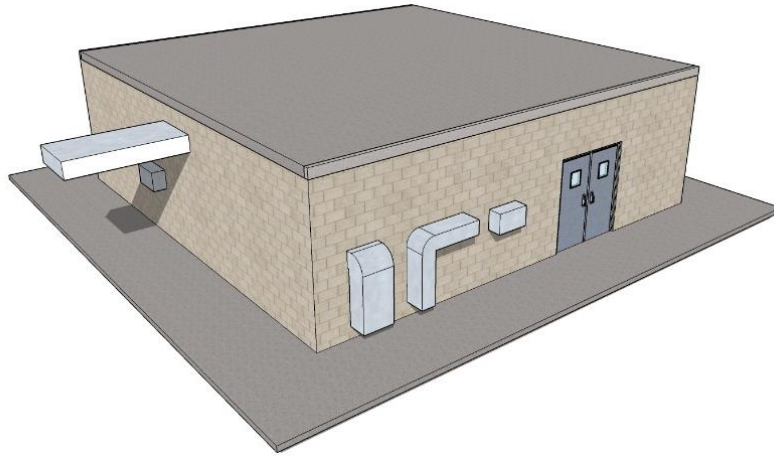


## High fidelity

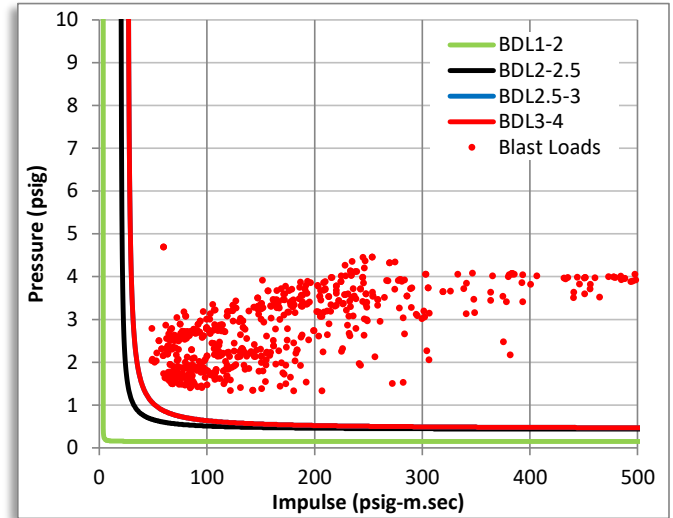
- Time intensive
- Building/ source specific modelling
- Repeatable
- Reduced conservatism in damage prediction
- Experienced practitioners required
- Validation required



# Common Weaknesses – Damage Modelling

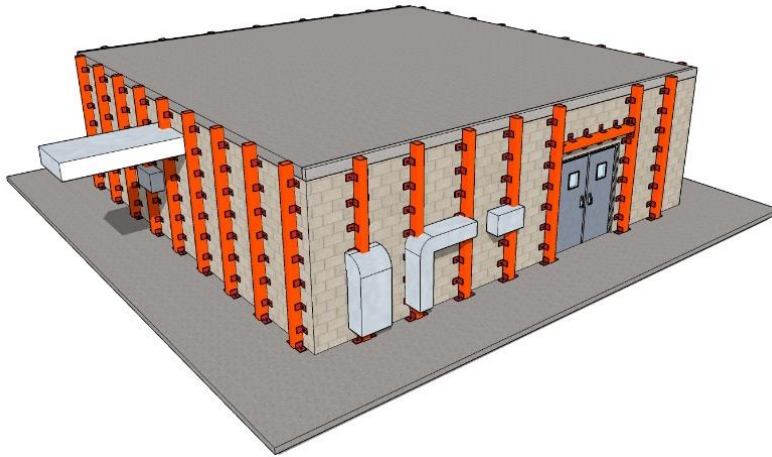


*Schematic of existing building*

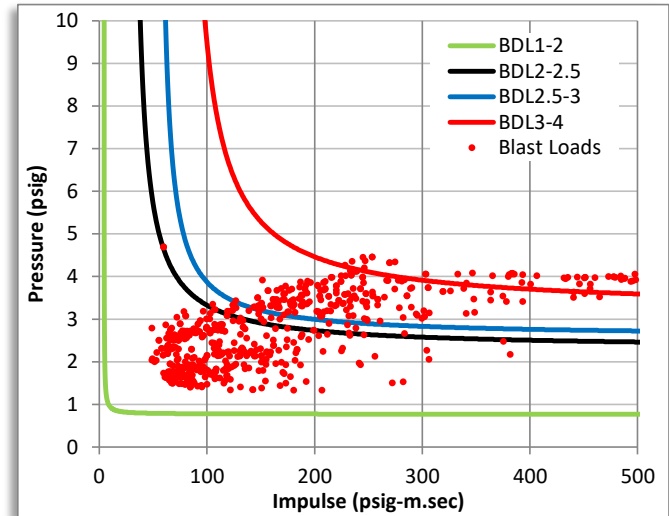


*P-i Diagram for existing building*

# Common Weaknesses – Damage Modelling



*Schematic of upgraded building (ext. wall post retrofit)*



*P-i Diagram for upgraded building*



# Common Weaknesses – Occupant Vulnerability

**Fire**

- Building resistance [*overestimate*]
- Escape route [*overestimate*]
- Escape time [*underestimate*]

**Toxic**

- Building resistance [*overestimated*]
- Evacuation plans & available PPE [*overestimated*]
- Exposure time [*underestimate*]

**Blast**

- Building resistance [*overestimated*]
- Primary building response vs. OV [*inadequate*]
- Secondary building response vs. OV [*underestimated*]

Commonly underestimating risk by giving unconservative/unvalidated credit

# Common Weaknesses – Results Format

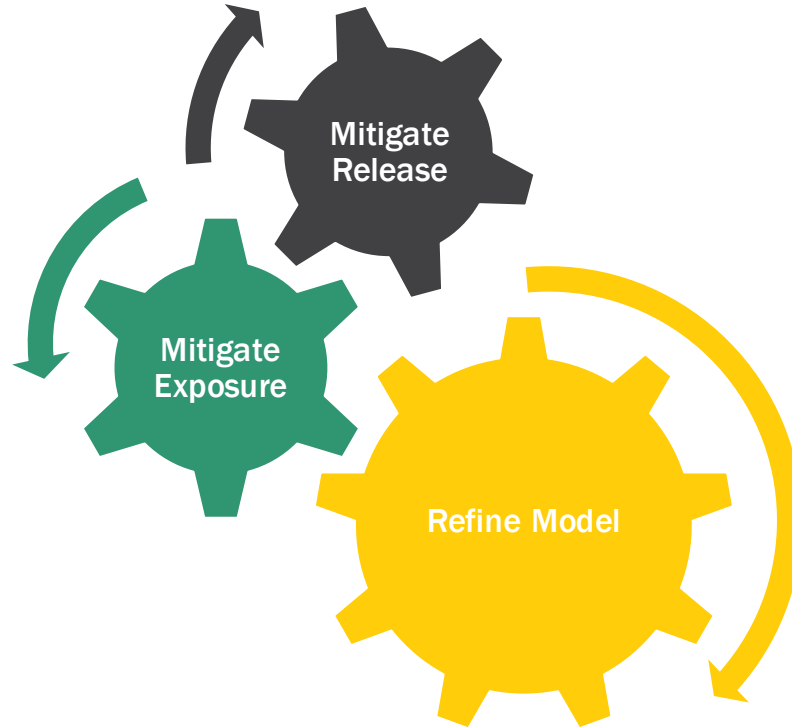
Factor	F-P Exceedance Curves	BIR & BSR
Blast, fire and toxic risk feedback?	↻	✓
Able to interpret OV?	↻	✓
Able to interpret risk drivers?	↻	✓
Able to predict building response?	✗	✓
Economic design possible?	✗	✓
...		



## Risk Mitigation Decision Making



# Potential Mitigation Options



# Potential Mitigation Options

## Refine Release Source Modeling

- Inventory limitations
- Pump and compressor capacities
- Emergency shutdown valves
- Operator response
- Check valves
- Detailed CFD modeling

## Mitigate Release Source

- Flammable and gas detection
- Water curtains for toxic releases
- Sprinkler systems
- Dikes and runoff systems
- Enhanced maintenance procedures
- Extensive testing and inspection programs
- Detailed start-up procedures
- Thorough lockout/tagout programs
- Verification & validation programs

## Mitigate Personnel Exposure

- Personnel/building relocation
- Safe Havens / SIP locations
- Building upgrades for blast resistance
- Emergency escape packs
- Supplied breathing air
- FRC requirements
- Emergency response plans
- Pressurized buildings with limited air ingress
- HVAC isolation interlocks and manual isolation
- Building thermal shielding
- Roll-up door interlocks to prevent flammable ingress

# Identify Buildings for Risk Mitigation

- **Risk profile**
  - Risk above owner's criteria
  - Similar risk contribution from multiple sources
- **Functionality**
  - Buildings can be grouped based on function for mitigation
- **Location**
  - “Indirect-costs” related to increased distance from personnel work area
- **Potential**
  - Some buildings have more potential for risk reduction based on cost efficient options than others

# Explosion Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's risk threshold*

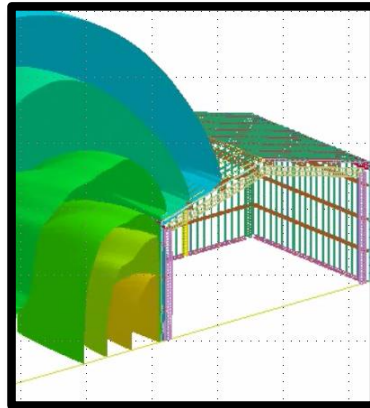


*Strengthen building*

*High fidelity modeling*

*Relocate function*

*New building*

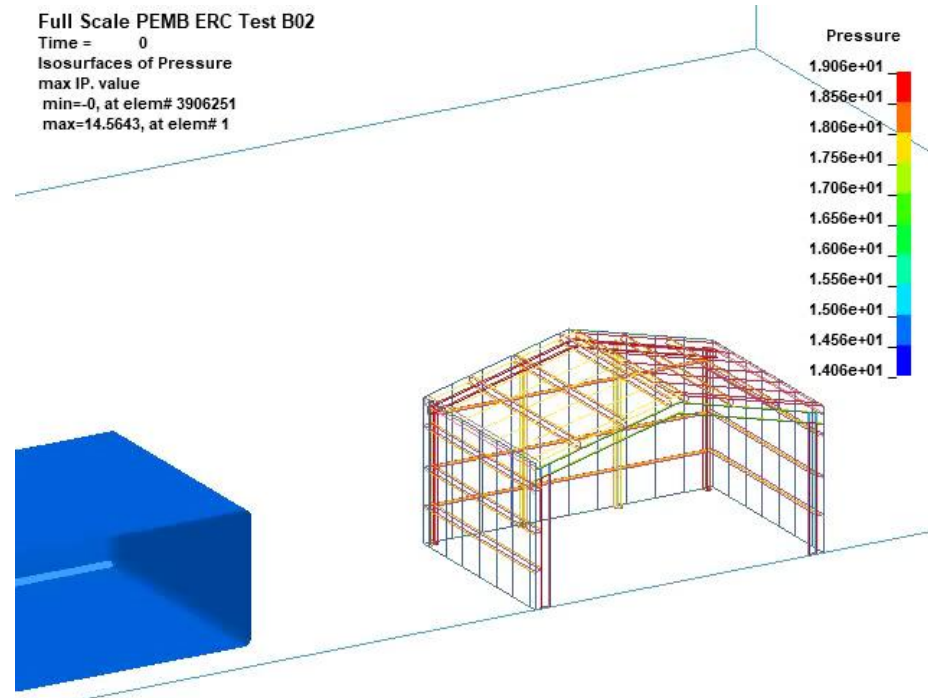


# High Fidelity Model - Example



Full Scale PEMB TEST – Explosion Research Cooperative  
Box Canyon

Full Scale PEMB ERC Test B02  
Time = 0  
Isosurfaces of Pressure  
max IP. value  
min=0, at elem# 3906251  
max=14.5643, at elem# 1



Finite Element Model – “Full Scale PEMB Test”



# Explosion Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's risk threshold*



*Strengthen building*

*High fidelity modeling*

*Relocate function*

*New building*



# Explosion Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's building damage threshold*



*Strengthen building*

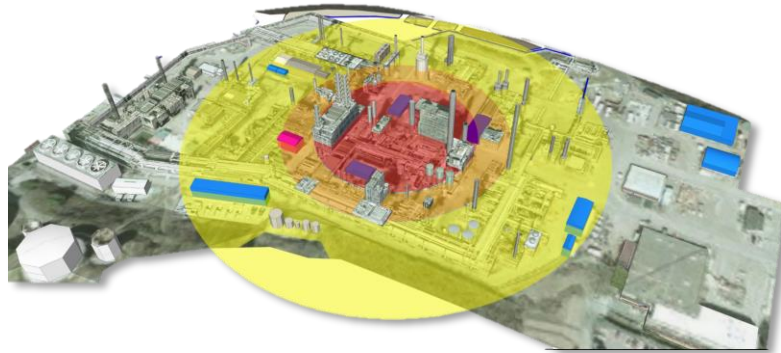
*High fidelity modeling*

*Relocate function*

*New building*



*Is upgrade achievable and practical?*



# Explosion Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's building damage threshold*



*Strengthen building*

*High fidelity modeling*

*Relocate function*

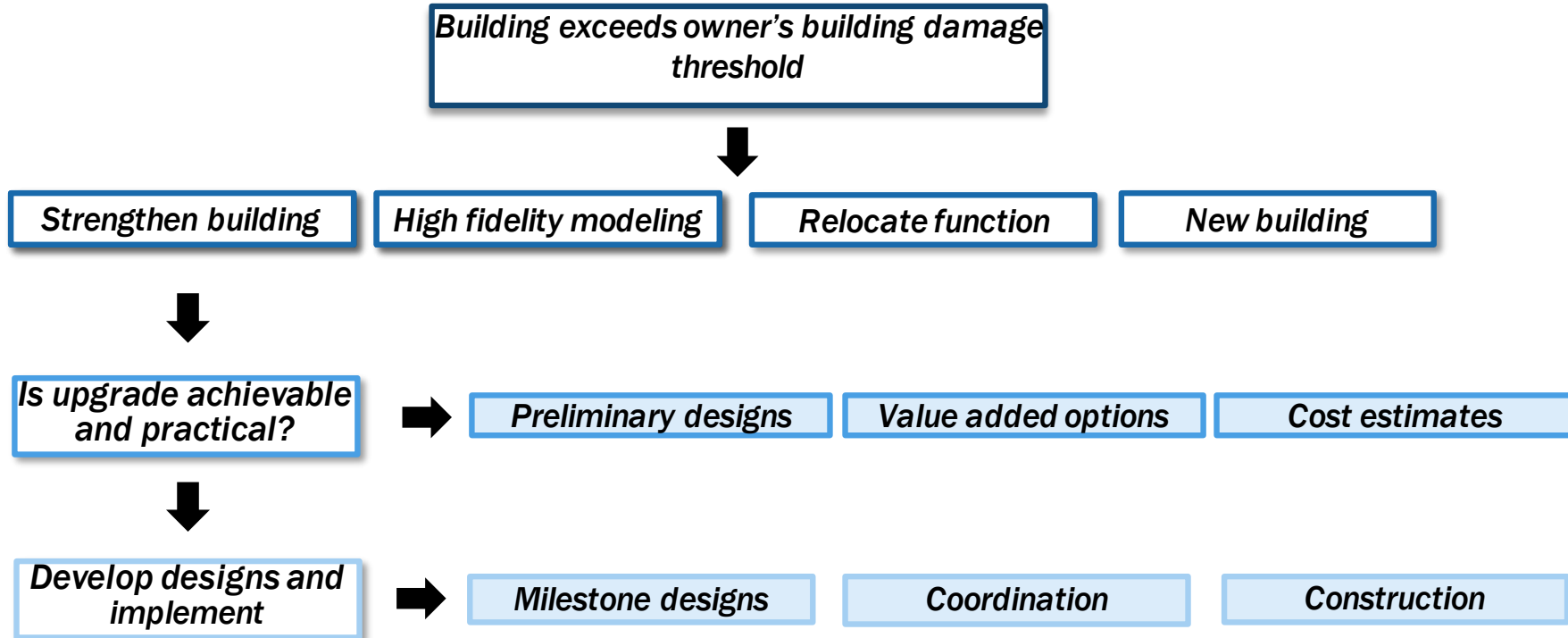
*New building*



*Is upgrade achievable and practical?*



# Explosion Risk Mitigation



# Thermal Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's risk threshold*

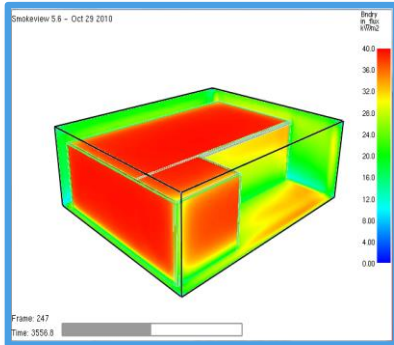


*High fidelity modeling*

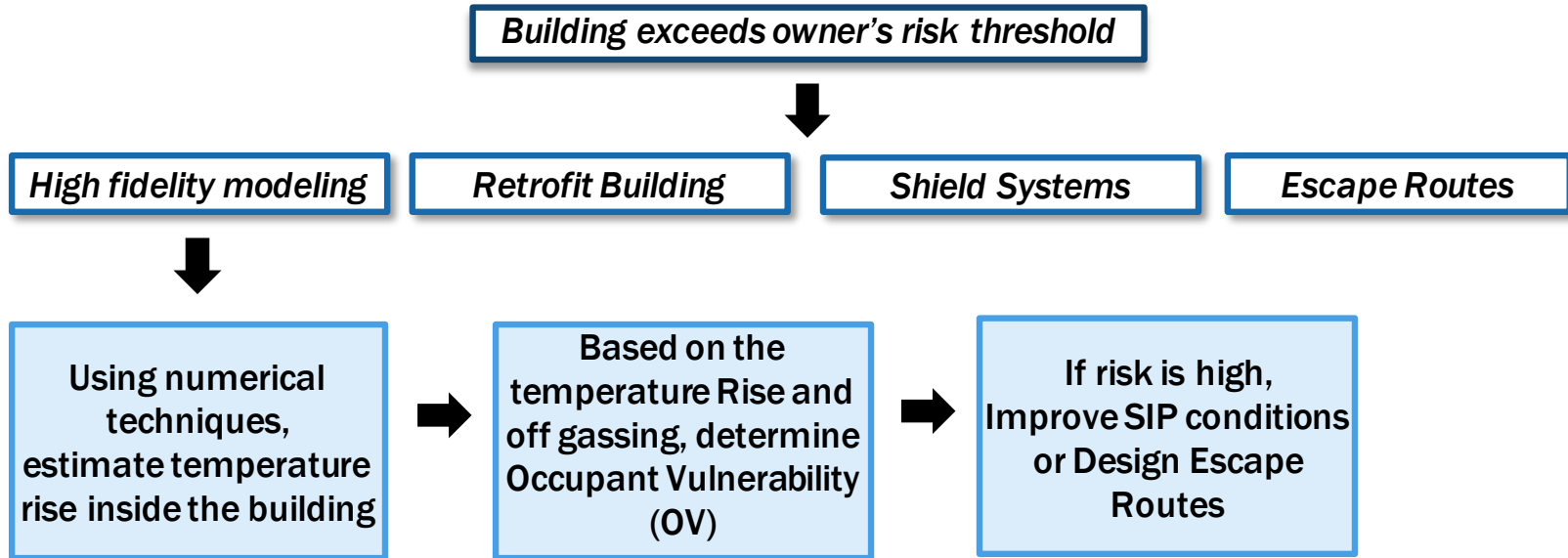
*Retrofit Building*

*Shield Systems*

*Escape Routes*



# Thermal Risk Mitigation



# Thermal Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's risk threshold*

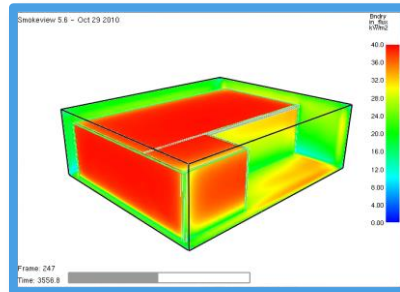


*High fidelity modeling*

*Retrofit Building*

*Shield Systems*

*Escape Routes*



- Retrofit the building at openings or locations of low thermal resistance
- Exterior intumescent paint can reduce temperature rise

# Thermal Risk Mitigation

**Building exceeds owner's risk threshold**



**High fidelity modeling**

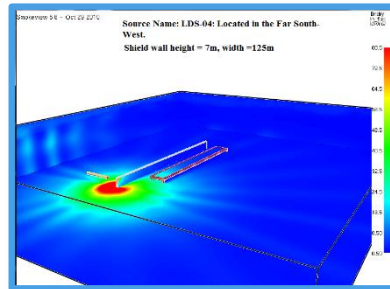
**Retrofit Building**

**Shield Systems**

**Escape Routes**



**Shield wall can be designed to mitigate direct exposure from jet fire radiation and impingement**





# Thermal Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's risk threshold*



*High fidelity modeling*

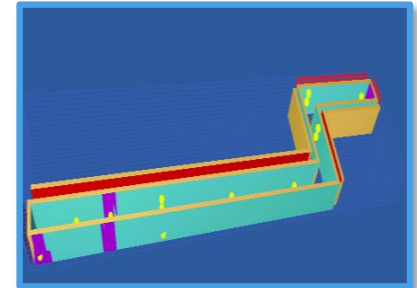
*Retrofit Building*

*Shield Systems*

*Escape Routes*



Escape corridors can be designed to provide occupants sheltered route to a safer location



# Toxic Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's risk threshold*



*Detection & Isolation*

*Leak-tight SIP*

*SIP Training*

*Evacuation*



Reliable detection

- Outdoors
- At the HVAC Inlet
- Inside

Timely and reliable  
isolation of ventilation  
system

# Toxic Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's risk threshold*



*Detection & Isolation*

*Leak-tight SIP*

*SIP Training*

*Evacuation*



- Testing to determine current leak tightness
- Minimize leak paths



# Toxic Risk Mitigation

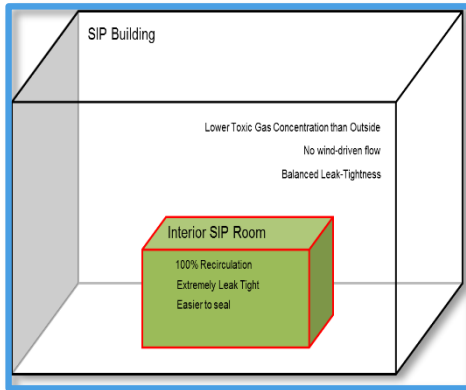
**Building exceeds owner's risk threshold**

**Detection & Isolation**

**Leak-tight SIP**

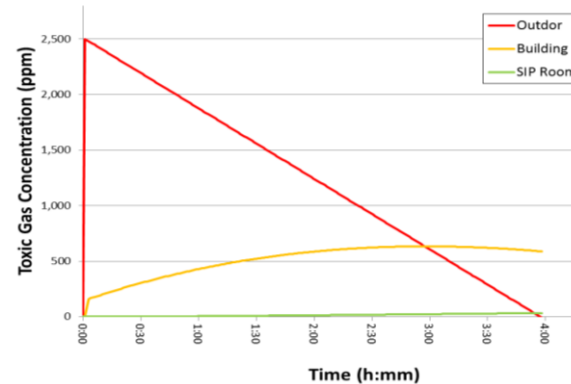
**SIP Training**

**Evacuation**



- **Interior SIP**
- **Easier to isolate and make leak tight**
- **Reduces impact of later entries**

**Toxic Gas Concentration vs Time**



# Toxic Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's risk threshold*



*Detection & Isolation*

*Leak-tight SIP*

*SIP Training*

*Fallback Plan*



## Things to know

- Strategy for toxic risk mitigation
- SIP Actions
- When to implement fall back plan

# Toxic Risk Mitigation

*Building exceeds owner's risk threshold*



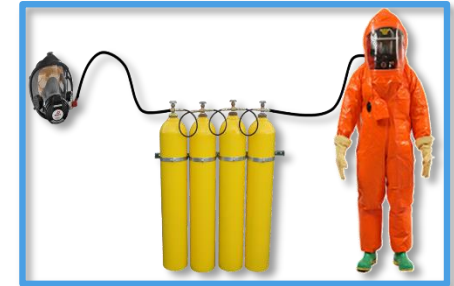
*Detection & Isolation*

*Leak-tight SIP*

*SIP Training*

*Fallback Plan*

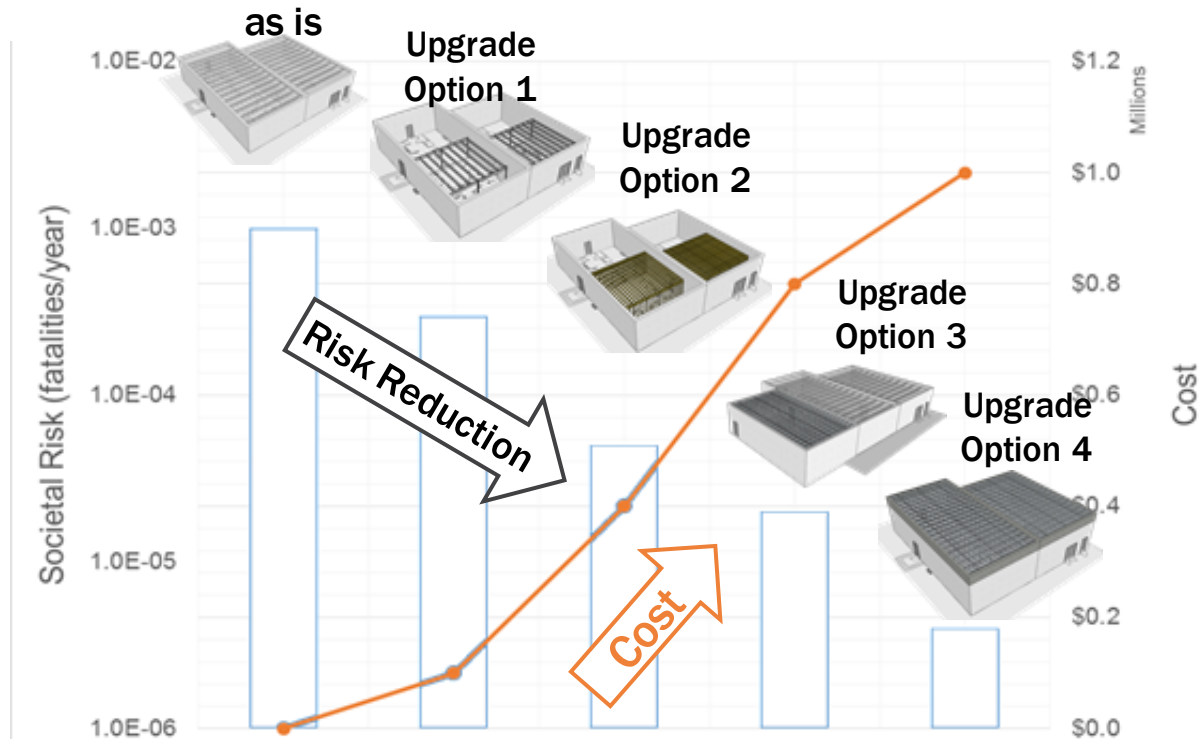
- Evacuation with escape masks
- SIP with Supplied Air



# Decision Making

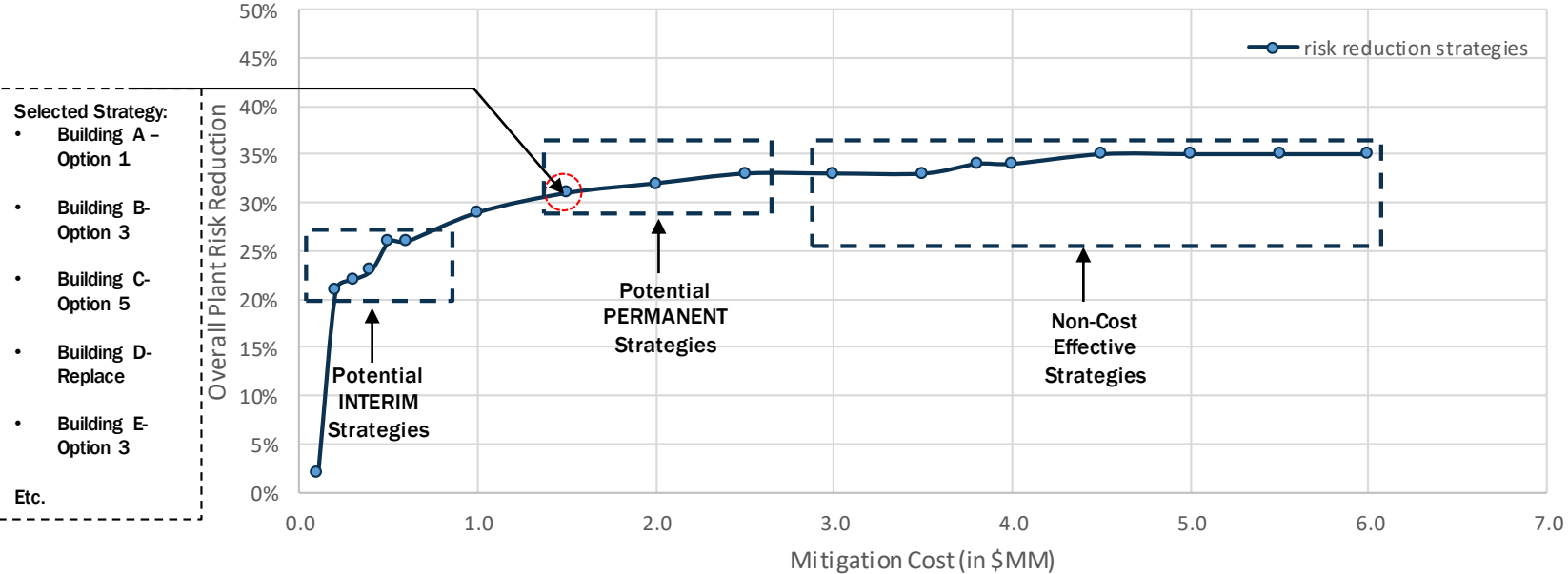
- Compare options based on one or more of the following factors

- Cost
- Interferences
- Business Interruptions
- Implementation time
- Indirect-costs



# Strategy Selection (Example)

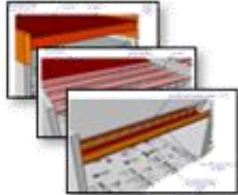
## Risk-Reduction Strategies vs. Approx. Cost of Mitigation



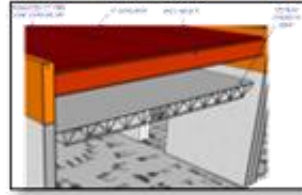


## Risk Mitigation Implementation

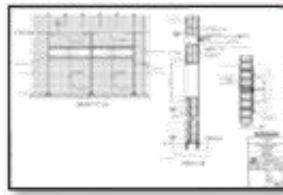
Concept  
evaluation



Conceptual  
design



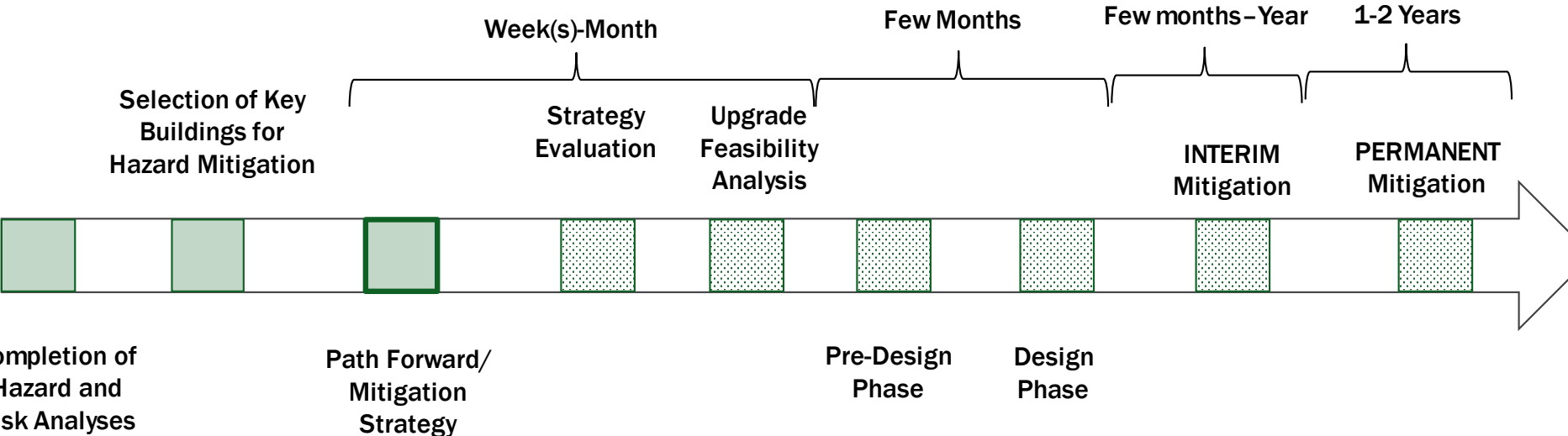
Detailed  
design



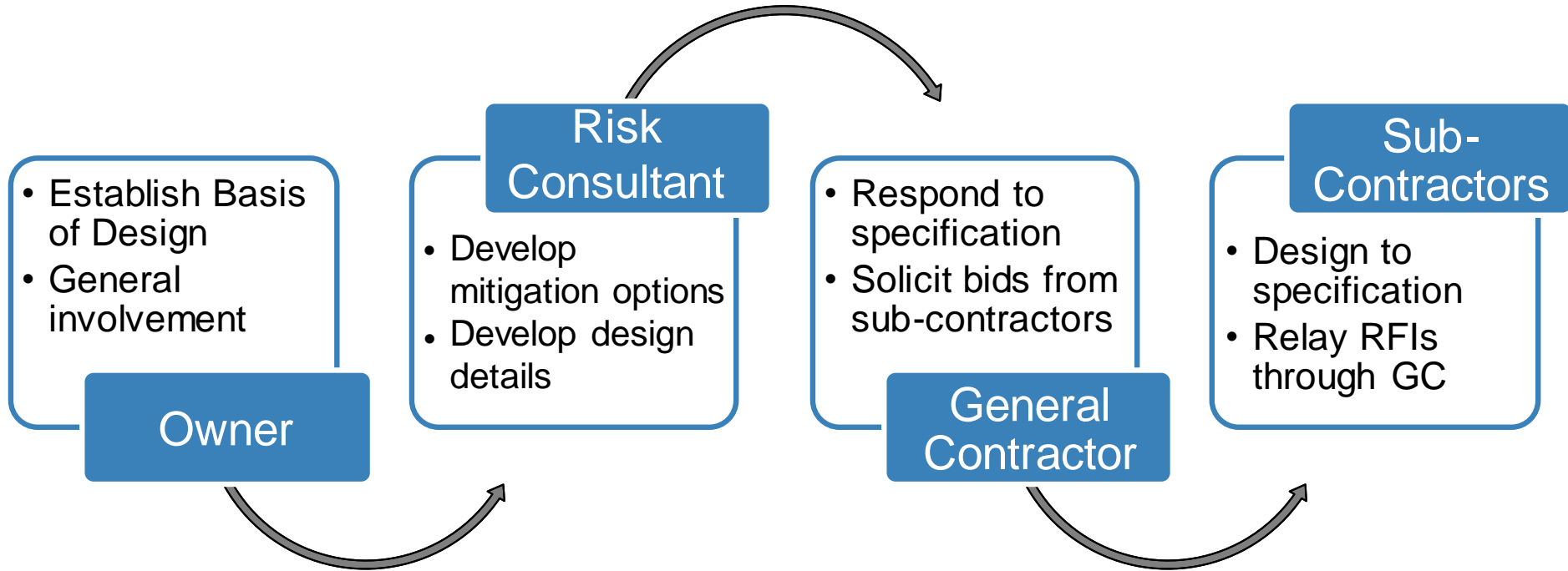
Construction



# Risk Mitigation Implementation Time Line

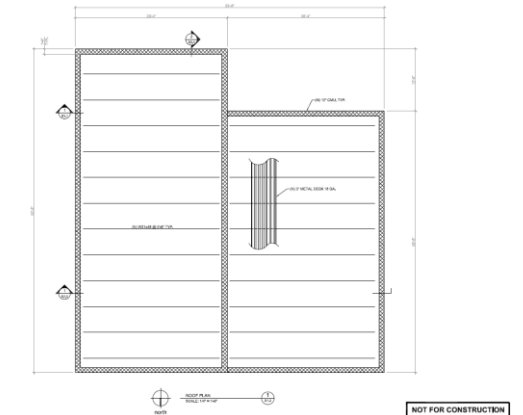
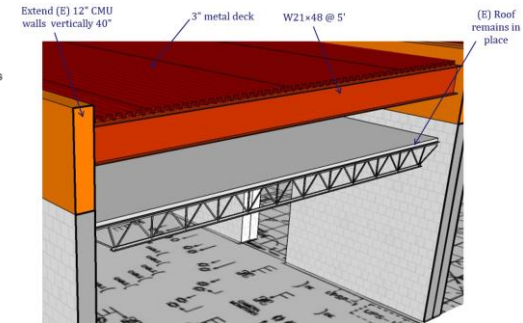
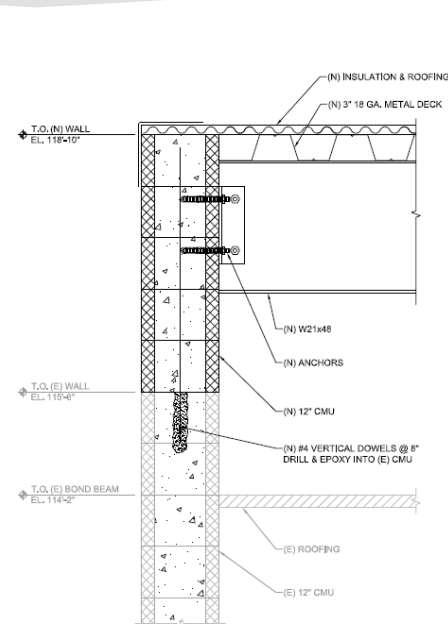


# From Hazard Study to Design to Implementation



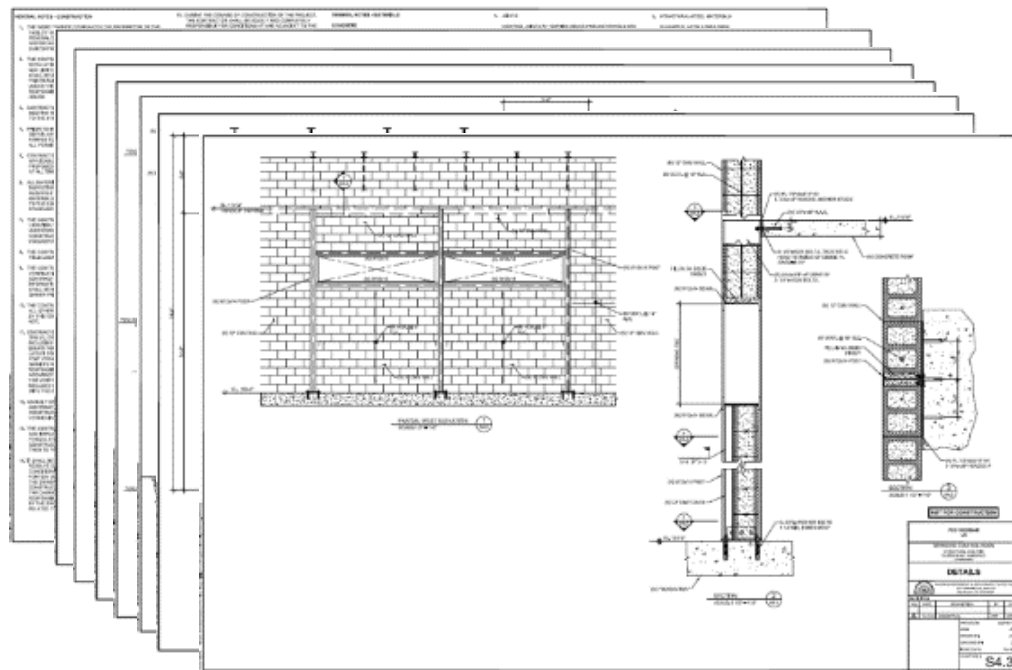
# Building Upgrade Conceptual Design Example

- Owner selects a mitigation option
- Risk consultant develops conceptual design
  - Provide basic details of design
  - Assess windows and doors
  - Architectural details
  - Mechanical equipment
  - Provide 30% level design drawings
- Preliminary construction cost estimates



# Building Upgrade Detailed Design Example

- Developed detailed design
  - Detailing to adapt concept to specific areas of building
  - Non-typical conditions
  - General notes/specs
  - Connection details
  - Windows/doors
  - Mechanical systems
  - Architectural
- IFC drawings



# Building Upgrade Construction Example

- **Pre-Construction Support**
  - Support bid process
  - Review construction contractor bids
- **Construction support**
  - Review shop drawings
  - Evaluate/approve vendor submittals
  - Respond to RFIs from construction contractor
  - Adapt design to reflect as-built conditions revealed by work in progress



EPSC



# Contact Us



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