

## Theatre at work

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What would you anticipate on your first day at work? That you will get home safely? Our case study is based on the true and tragic story of a young man who lost his life within hours of starting a new job. How could such a terrible event happen and shouldn't any risks to his safety have been anticipated?

The Irish Court held the company accountable for failings in information, instruction, supervision and safety systems. The Judge said he was 'satisfied the case was not one where the company had shown a deliberate disregard of health and safety to maximise profits but had been a one-off tragic and unfortunate accident arising from a naive attempt at completing a difficult task'<sup>1</sup>. We give participants the opportunity to be jury and judge for themselves.

**Statistics tell us that almost half of work-related deaths in Ireland involve vehicles with common issues including proximity and loss of control<sup>2</sup>. This story highlights the risks around moving vehicles, plant and machinery and the potential consequences of failing to take safety seriously.**

### THEMES

Complacency

Culture

Accountability

Plant & Vehicles

### OUTCOMES

- Explore the importance of a safe system of work, highlighting the value of safe practices
- Gain insights into complacency, risk perception and the human factors at play in every workplace
- Encourage responsibility for individual actions in creating and maintaining a culture of safety

### WORKSHOP ELEMENTS

The story unfolds over the course of four dramatic scenes, each of which allows exploration of different aspects and key themes.

At each stage, small group discussion will be followed by facilitated plenary contributions. We also bring the story to a courtroom setting to critically explore the factors that allowed the incident to happen. The workshop is interactive and facilitation can be tailored to suit groups at all levels, in any industry. Delivered by a team of four actors, this case study explores the working environment, safety culture and ultimately the actions and omissions which left the victim's family devastated.

<sup>1</sup> Richard McCullen, Irish Sun, Nov 2018

<sup>2</sup> HSA Review Apr 2021