A photograph of a construction site at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there is a complex structure of scaffolding and rebar. A crane is visible on the left side. The overall scene is industrial and dramatic.

Serious Accidents: Avoidance + Consequences

Gregory S. Narsh, Esq.

April 16, 2024

troutman
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Gregory S. Narsh

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Over 40 years of combined industry and legal experience with environmental and safety issues, handling a range of regulatory, compliance and administrative matters, as well as litigation involving federal agencies.

Wayne State University

B.S.Ch.E., Chemical Engineering

Graduate Certificate in Hazardous Waste Management

Wayne State University Law School

Juris Doctor – Law

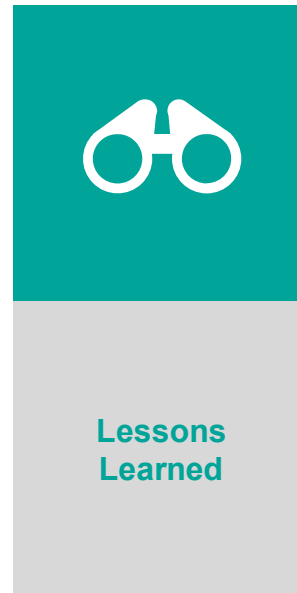
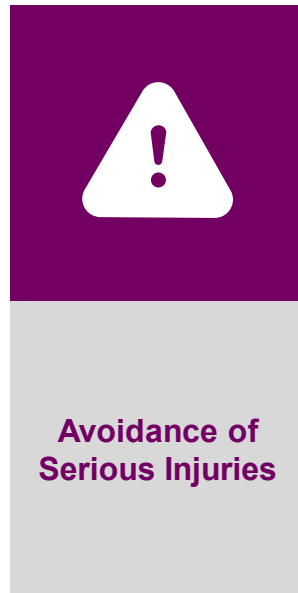
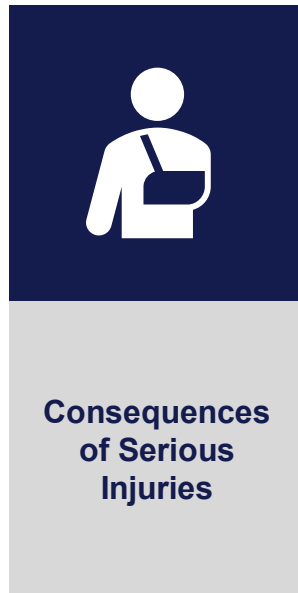
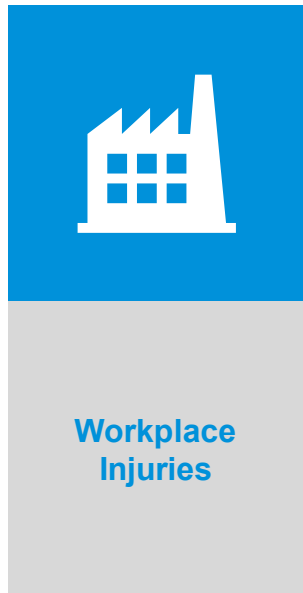
Monsanto Company

Safety and Environmental Specialist, 12 years

Attorney in Private Practice

OSHA and Environmental Law, 32 years

Agenda



Workplace Injuries

Most Dangerous Occupation in USA?



Steel Worker



Metal Fabrication



Chemical Worker



Construction Worker

Fishing Industry!



Common Serious Injuries

Traumatic Brain Injuries

Broken Bones

Spinal Injuries

Amputations

Crushed Limbs

Paralysis

Electrocution

Fatalities

Consequences of Serious Injuries

Direct Costs

Medical Bills

**Workers'
Compensation**

Indirect Costs

Lost time

**Training new
employee(s)**

**Loss of
production**

**Less
productivity
related to
employee
morale**

Legal costs

**Consultants/
Experts**

OSHA Enforcement Costs



OSHA Organization



Federal OSHA

“State-Plan States”

Not “neutral”

Whistleblower cases

A close-up photograph of a pair of metal scales of justice, with one pan hanging higher than the other. The background is a solid blue color. A dark purple horizontal bar is overlaid at the top of the image, containing the text 'Legal Costs' in white.

Legal Costs

Initial consulting
Informal conference
Settlement agreement
Notice of Contest
Litigation

Private Litigation

Wrongful death claims

Workers' Compensation bar

Can be very expensive

Trauma



Effect on coworkers

Effect on business

Surveillance video

Time

Plant management

Corporate management



Avoidance of Serious Injuries

Training

**“Low
Hanging
Fruit” for
OSHA**

**Do It ...
Document It**

**Training
Related
Tragedies**

**“Hard to
Predict”
Tragedies**

Self Audits

**Audit
Privilege**

**Attorney-
Client
Privilege**

**Form the
Team**

Lessons Learned



A photograph of a construction site at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, there is a complex structure of metal scaffolding and rebar. A large crane is visible on the left side, and another one is on the right. The overall scene is industrial and captures the end of a day's work.

Thank You!

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