VIRGINIA FLIGHT SCHOOL SAFETY ARTICLE – NO   01/08
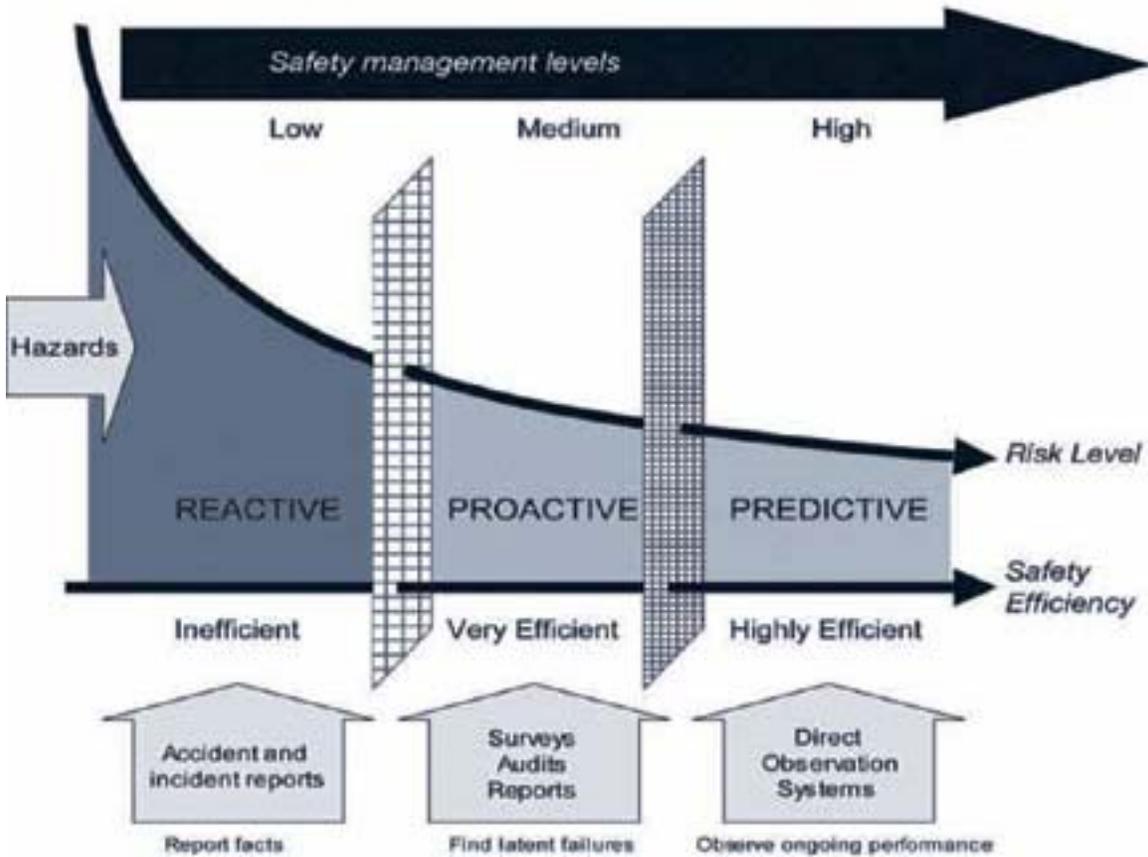
SAFETY MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Concept of Safety. Safety is about accepting that things will go wrong and controlling associated risks when things do go wrong to a level that is as *LOW AS REASONABLY PRACTICAL (ALARP)*.

SAFETY MANAGEMENT LEVELS

There are three accepted levels of safety management viz ; REACTIVE, PROACTIVE and PREDICTIVE. This is illustrated in the following diagramme :

<u>Reactive Level.</u> This is "after the event" information and relates to data gathering to identify trends. It is the starting point of safety management. Used on it's own one can assume that what has one wrong in the past will go wrong in the future. Largely ineffective but serves as the basis for the next two levels.

<u>Proactive Level.</u> Proactive information provides information about the "close calls" or concerns of individuals about issues that could result in an accident or serious incident.

<u>Predictive Level.</u> Predictive information tells you what is happening in real time. It is the most effective information as it can be acted on the quickest.

The ideal situation for any organisation is to operate in the PROACTIVE/PREDICTIVE environment. This will ensure optimal safety integrity.

ORGANISATIONAL SAFETY CULTURE

Safety culture is about attitudes and behaviours. If you as a stakeholder are involved, and are seen to place safety as a high profile issue, you are very likely to positively influence the integrity of your own safety and the safety of the organisation in which you are a stakeholder.

The following diagramme illustrates the approach to safety cultures which organisations adopt :
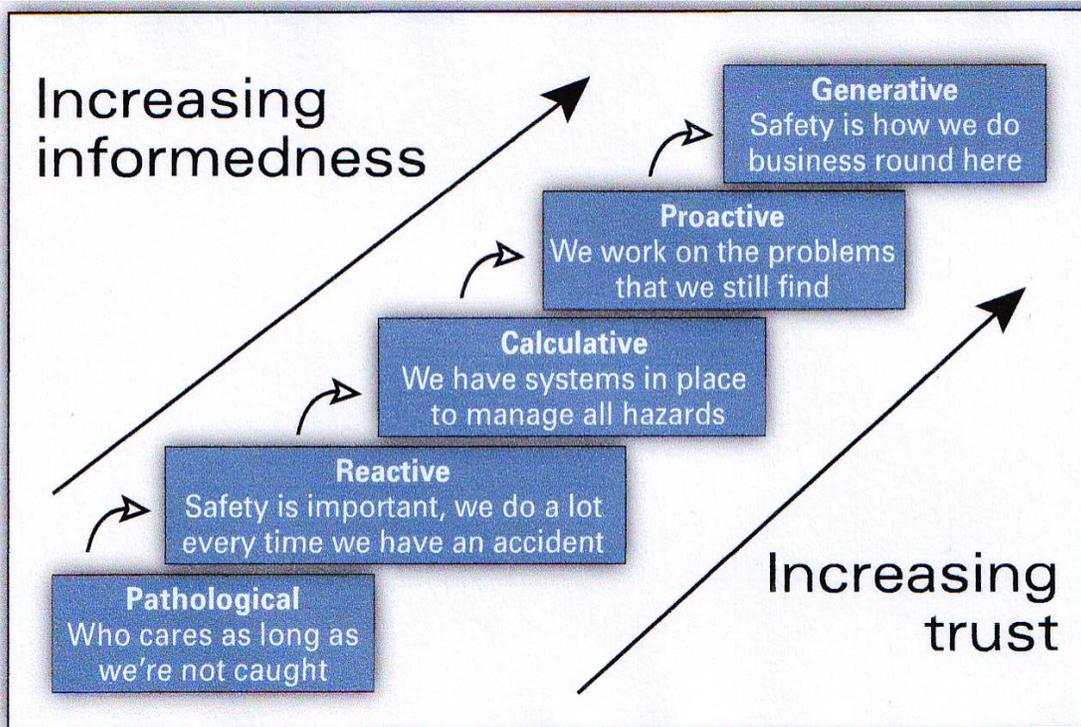
Unfortunately, all too often an organisational approach is on the PATHOLOGICAL level. Don't be part of an organisation that has a pathological approach to safety – it is in your own interest to operate in an environment where "safety is how we do business around here".