

Can All Accidents Be Avoided?



By Chris Loomis, Safety Expert

In a perfect world, the answer is yes. Take this story from France for instance.

A flight crew was assigned to conduct pre-delivery tests on an Airbus 340, a brand new \$200 million dollar aircraft. They taxied out into an area designated for testing and started all four engines. They took the engines up all the way to full take-off power.



\$200 million aircraft meets retaining wall and the wall wins.

The problem was that the aircraft was empty and they had not taken into account what a huge difference this would make. The Takeoff Warning Horn began to shriek loudly because all four engines were at maximum power and the aircraft computer thought they were trying to take off but it knew that the flaps were not down and it had not been configured for takeoff.

It was just doing its job but it was annoying. So, one of the crew members decided to pull the circuit breaker on the Ground Proximity Sensor to silence the alarm. This fooled the aircraft into thinking that it was in the air, so it released all the brakes, which sent the Airbus rocketing forward at great speed.

The result was that the brand new \$200 million Airbus was completely destroyed and all members of the flight crew were seriously injured.

Could this accident have been avoided? Yes, of course...and by merely reading the owner's manual!

If each of us would take the proper precautions in our normal daily activities, then all accidents could be avoided. Most of us go about our day without even giving safety a second thought. That is until we ourselves are involved in some type of accident.

We humans learn best from our mistakes. It's only after we cut our finger while chopping up onions that we remember to look out for our fingers while chopping. We must begin to pay more attention to common sense safety practices in order to avoid accidents in our daily lives.

We don't have to go wildly careening down the highways of life.

Safety is an attitude that begins in our thoughts. We can create an accident free work environment at work and at home if we believe we can and are committed to the process.

Chris has more than 20 years of professional safety experience. As the marketing manager for DuPont's environmental and safety services, he has seen first-hand the safety challenges faced by plant personnel while working with more than 600 chemical, petrochemical, and manufacturing facilities. Chris is an award-winning international safety speaker and author.

For more information or to book your next safety speaker, please visit <http://www.safetyattitude.com> or call Chris Loomis at 713-927-6592.