Safety Culture Assessment – Practical Application

Markus Kohler, SASCON 2011 Bern



(Safety) Culture Model



Artifacts





Espoused values / attitudes regarding:

- Hardware
- Software
- People/liveware
- Risks/acts



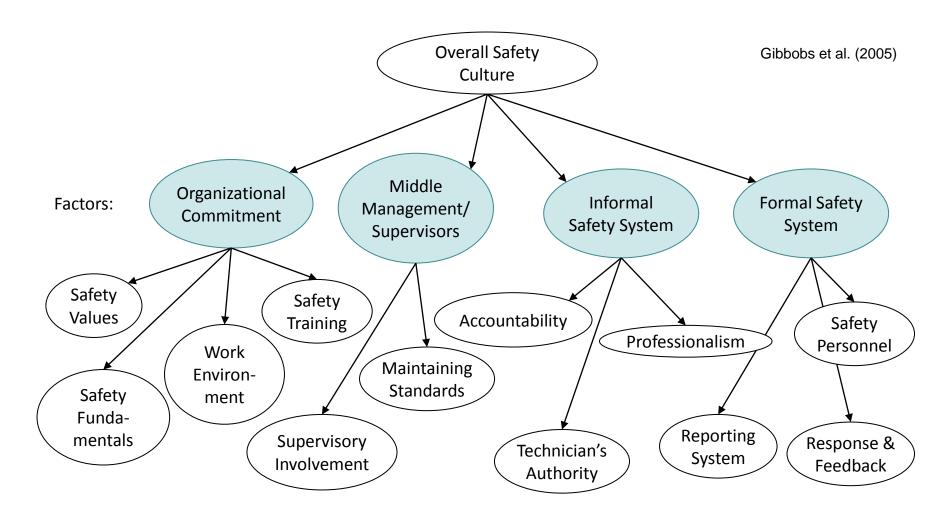


Basic underlying assumptions

Adapted from Guldenmund (2000)



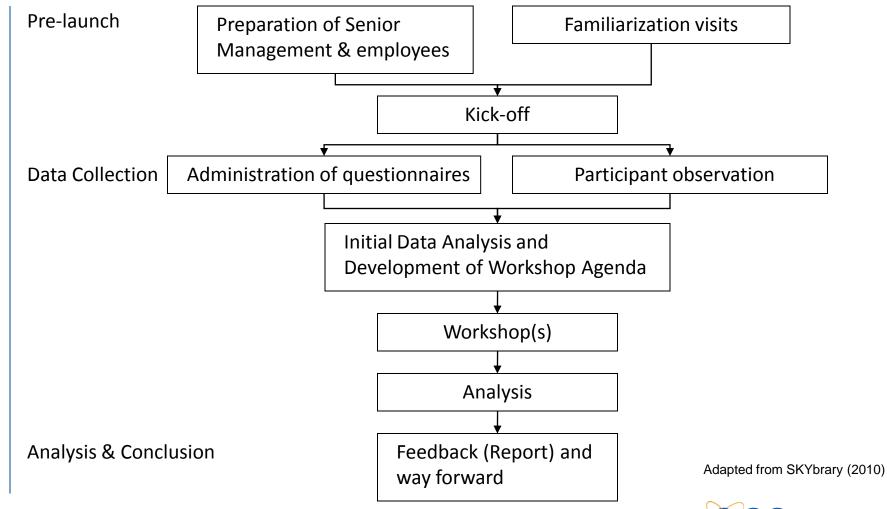
Normative Safety Culture Model



Choosing the right tool(s)

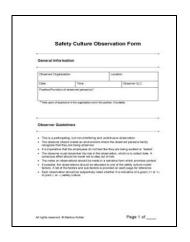
Tool Safety Culture Layer Observation **Artifacts** Questionnaire Espoused values / attitudes Workshop Basic underlying assumptions

Conducting the Safety Culture Assessment



Practical Considerations: Observation

- Easy to do
- Requires high acuity of senses
- d "Fly on the wall"
- Subjective interpretation by observer based on own expectations and experiences
- Difficult to record and quantify observations → structured notes





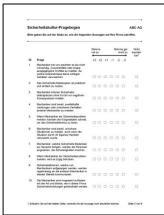
Practical Considerations: Questionnaire

- Quick (and dirty)
- Straightforward statistical data analysis
- Excellent repeatability across organization and in timeline



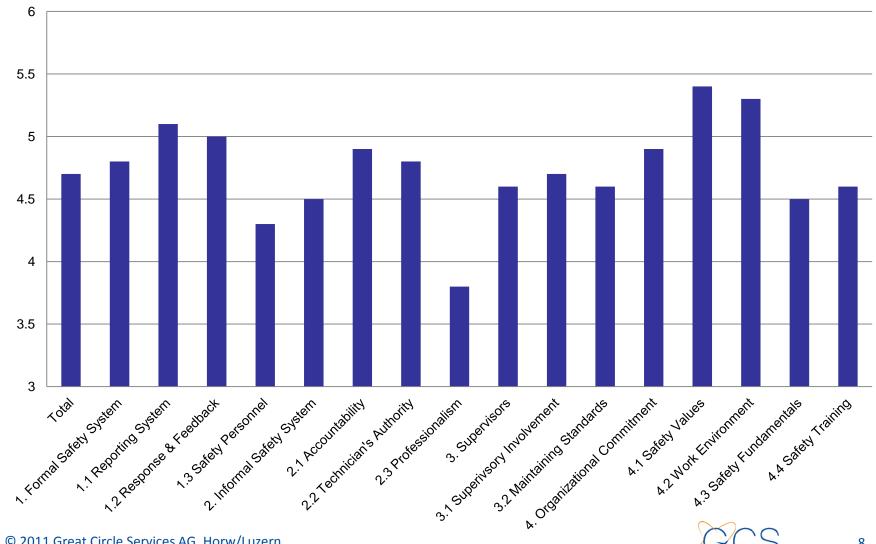
- Suggests scientific accuracy
- Limited statistical validity in small organizations
- Only provides part of the picture







Quantitative Results (Example)



Practical Considerations: Workshop

- Clarify issues uncovered by questionnaire and participant observation
- Observation of how people interact and communicate

- Requires good preparation
- Requires moderation skills

Assessment Product: Report

- Quantitative and qualitative results of analysis.
 Safety Culture Factors used as guideline
- Maturity level "scores"
- Recommendations for improvement
- Approx. 5 pages

Level 5 - Continually improving Safety Culture

Level 4 - Cooperating Safety Culture

Level 3 - Involving Safety Culture

► Level 2 – Managing Safety Culture

Level 1 – Emerging Safety Culture

Fleming (2001)

- **5 Generative:** Safety is how we do business around here
- **4 Proactive:** We try to anticipate safety problems before they arise
- **3 Calculative:** We have systems in place to manage all hazards
- **2 Reactive:** Safety is important. We a lot every time we have an accident
- **1 Pathological:** Who cares about safety as long as we don't get caught

Reason (1997)



Conclusions

- Multi-method assessment provides a more complete picture
- Repeated application identifies development of the organization's safety culture
- A thorough (common!) understanding of the theoretical construct of safety culture is required

Refences

Literature

- Guldenmund, F. W. (2000). The nature of safety culture: a review of theory and research. Safety Science (34), 215-257.
- Gibbons, A., von Thaden, T. L., & Wiegmann, D. A. (2005). Development of a Commercial Aviation Safety Culture Survey for Maintenance Operations. Technical Report AHFD-05-06/FAA-05-02, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Savoy.
- SKYbrary. (n.d.). Solutions: Safety Culture. Retrieved 11 14, 2010, from SKYbrary: http://www.skybrary.aero/index.php/Solutions:Safety_Culture

Presenter

Markus Kohler is Deputy Managing Director of Great Circle Services AG in Horw/Luzern (www.gcs-safety.com).

Markus is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida with a degree in Aircraft Engineering and holds an Executive MBA. He is a certified A&P aircraft mechanic and holds a commercial pilot license.

His work experience ranges from working as a technician on float planes in Alaska to Reliability, Maintainability and Safety (RMS) Engineering for Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. His previous and current positions include Air Safety Investigator, Continuing Airworthiness Manager, Airworthiness Review Staff, auditor (FOCA and IS-BAO accredited) as well as trainer on all of the above subjects.

Contact details:

markus.kohler@gcs-safety.com markus.kohler@bluewin.ch +41 79 732 6573

