



Training Solutions, Delivered!

**ONE WILL DIE:**  
*The John Martin Story*  
**(Concise)**

**Leader's Guide, Fact Sheet  
& Quiz**

**Item Number: 3331**  
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***This easy-to-use Leader's Guide is provided to assist in conducting a successful presentation.***

## **PREPARING FOR THE MEETING**

Here are a few suggestions for using this program:

- a) Review the contents of the Fact Sheet that immediately follows this page to familiarize yourself with the program topic and the training points discussed in the program. The Fact Sheet also includes a list of Program Objectives that details the information that participants should learn from watching the program.
- b) If required by your organization, make an attendance record to be signed by each participant to document the training to be conducted.
- c) Prepare the area and equipment to be used for the training. Make sure the watching environment is comfortable and free from outside distractions. Also, ensure that participants can see and hear the TV screen or computer monitor without obstructions.
- d) Make copies of the Review Quiz included at the end of this Leader's Guide to be completed by participants at the conclusion of the presentation. Be aware that the page containing the answers to the quiz comes before the quiz itself, which is on the final page.

## **CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION**

- a) Begin the meeting by welcoming the participants. Introduce yourself and give each person an opportunity to become acquainted if there are new people joining the training session.
- b) Introduce the program by its title and explain to participants what they are expected to learn as stated in the Program Objectives of the Fact Sheet.
- c) Play the program without interruption. Upon completion, lead discussions about your organization's specific policies regarding the subject matter. Make sure to note any unique hazards associated with the program's topic that participants may encounter while performing their job duties at your facility.
- d) Hand out copies of the review quiz to all of the participants and make sure each one completes it before concluding the training session.

**3331 ONE WILL DIE:**  
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**FACT SHEET**

**LENGTH: 10 MINUTES**

**PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:**

The choices we make each day can have a huge impact on ourselves and others. Something as simple as using a piece of protective equipment or refusing to go along with an unsafe co-worker can literally prevent tragedy. John Martin's story is an unforgettable illustration of the horrific injuries and life-changing consequences that can result when we make unsafe choices. While servicing a pump to a chemical line during a maintenance procedure, John and a co-worker decided not to follow the safe work practices that would have secured the line and protected them from injury. When John removed the cover to the pump, the superheated corrosive substance inside the line spewed out and he was severely burned on more than 70 percent of his body. Against all odds, John survived, but he suffered two torturous months in a hospital's burn unit and has had numerous operations on his badly burned eyes.

This program brings the dramatic true story surrounding John's incident to life, including the events that led up to the tragedy and a reenactment of the incident. Viewers will learn valuable safety lessons about off-job distractions, speaking up when co-workers take risks, the consequences of ignoring required safe work practices, the importance of wearing appropriate PPE and allowing co-workers to influence our decisions about safety.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** After watching the program, the participant will be able to explain the following:

- The events that led up to John's incident;
- The contributing factors and safety lessons to be learned from the incident;
- How the choices we make each day can impact ourselves and others.

**PROGRAM OUTLINE:**

**THE DAY BEFORE**

- On the day before John Martin's incident, a pump at the mill where he worked started to leak. Two maintenance workers attempted to stop the leak, but couldn't.
- The two workers surmised that the entire system and cooking vessel would have to be drained in order to replace the worn out impeller casing. They wrapped the pump with a roll of felt to slow down the leak until the repair could be made.
- As conditions at the mill deteriorated, John Martin was at home, unaware of the troubling developments. In fact, he had just returned from windsurfing and was planning to return to the beach with his wife the next day after he got off work.
- Meanwhile, a group of personnel from production, maintenance and operations discussed the leaking pump.
- The process engineer argued that they couldn't afford to be down for 36 hours to isolate the pump from the cooking vessel. He proposed that isolating the pump from the cooking vessel by closing the up-line valve was a "reasonable compromise" so the job could be done in eight hours.
- Marion Mathews, the maintenance worker who would likely perform the procedure, objected to this decision and threatened to call in sick the next day.
- After the process engineer suggested that he find someone else to "get the job done," the maintenance foreman decided John Martin was the right man for the job.

**WHY JOHN WAS CHOSEN FOR THE JOB**

- John would later say that there was a reason that he was assigned to the job. He was a young mechanic known to take shortcuts to get the job done.
- He was known as somebody who could get the job done. "Did they know that when they put me on the job that morning? Yeah, they sure did. They could depend on it."
- John had honed his risky job habits as an electrician and construction worker prior to his seven years at the mill. He brought his "just get it done" work habits with him to the mill, where he was able to continue them despite the company's written safety program.

## **JOHN & HARRY DISCUSS THE JOB**

- On the morning of the incident, John asked Harry how they “got stuck” with the job. Harry told him that the other guys came in early to make sure they got other jobs and that Marion had called in sick.
- When John said he didn’t understand why Marion called in, since the job wouldn’t be that bad, Harry said, “This is a dangerous job, John. We need to do this right, especially since the cooking vessel is not drained, that one valve is all we got.”
- “We can’t even see the valve from here,” continued Harry. “We should take the time to visually verify that it’s been secured.”
- “C’mon Harry! You can’t be serious, that valve is four stories up from here. I intend to have this done by four o’clock. I’m not working OT, not today,” John said.
- In an effort to reassure Harry, John then said “they’ll tell us when it’s closed. Don’t worry.” He told Harry to go get the tools they would need while he locked out the electrical disconnect.
- John told the process engineer they were preparing to pull open pump number nine and asked if everything was safe to proceed. The process engineer told him they’d let him know when the operator had isolated the pump.
- “See Harry, everything’s going to be fine. Let’s get moving!”

## **EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE INCIDENT**

- As John locked out the disconnect on pump nine, the shift supervisor told him that the control room had reported the valve closed and that the line was draining.
- When John asked if it was safe to proceed, the supervisor said, “Yeah, I’m sure. Time’s a wasting!”
- John commented later that Harry probably would have questioned having just one lock on the disconnect, but John was pushing him. They had asked different people all morning if the job was safe to do instead of taking the responsibility of making sure themselves.
- When they got up to the job, they removed the bolts on the coupling connecting the pump to the motor. They didn’t verify that they had the right breaker pulled because they just assumed it was, according to John.
- Based on their conversations with others, John and Harry assumed the up-line valve was closed and it was. They also assumed it was secured so it would stay closed while they worked on the pump, but it wasn’t.
- The valve that controlled the flow to pump number nine was operated from a control room 68 feet above the pump.
- To secure the valve, a pipe-fitter placed a blocked pipe into the slotted valve screw to prevent it from being re-opened remotely. After initially reporting the valve closed, the pipe-fitter then had trouble making his blocking pipe fit.
- When the control room operator noted that his computer screen showed the valve shut, the pipe-fitter asked why the blocking pipe wouldn’t fit if the valve was fully seated.
- The control room operator, who was new to the job, replied in frustration that he wasn’t sure why and looked around for someone to help him.
- “It’s no good. I don’t think the valve is fully seated. Why don’t you stroke the valve and see if it will re-seat?” the pipe-fitter asked.
- The operator responded “Okay, I’m going to stroke the valve. Here it goes open.” He then punched the key on the computer that opened the valve.

## **THE INCIDENT**

- As John removed the last bolt on the pump cover, his wrench began to shake. He looked at Harry as they both realized what was about to happen.
- A big flow of the “black liquor” burst from the impeller and pinned John against a feeder pipe behind him. Harry was also splashed but able to jump off the platform and run to the maintenance shop.
- John screamed in agony as his body was drenched by the hot, black liquid.
- The shift supervisor stormed into the control room and screamed, “What are you doing? Close the valve; you’re killing people down there!”
- “Yeah right, I know it’s my first day and all, but...” replied the operator. “Can’t you hear them screaming?!” interrupted the supervisor. “Close the valve. They’re being boiled alive!”
- As the operator hit the key to close the valve, which would take 30 seconds to close, the supervisor called emergency response.

- Meanwhile, John staggered through the surrounding black mist and fell from the platform to the ground below. Over 70 percent of his body was burned and he had lost vision in both eyes.
- His co-workers tried to help by cutting off his clothes and spraying him with a water hose. They then watched helplessly as John and Harry were loaded into the ambulance.

### **CONTRIBUTING FACTORS & SAFETY LESSONS**

- A review of the contributing factors to this incident will help us recognize and avoid similar events in our own workplace.
- John was looking forward to getting back to the beach, so much so that he may have let it affect his decision-making process. Don't allow off-job distractions to impact your safety decisions.
- From day one, John and others were allowed to commit unsafe acts. Even though it was well known who the risk takers were, their actions were allowed and even encouraged. For a true safety culture to develop, co-workers and supervisors must be willing to speak up about and put a stop to unsafe behaviors.
- Production pressures contributed to a decision to push through a new procedure with poor planning and poor communication. Even in an emergency, safety must be part of any procedure or action plan.
- John and Harry didn't follow even the most basic steps of a proper lockout/tagout program. They didn't use two locks on the disconnect; they didn't test the disconnect to verify it was the correct one; they didn't verify the up-line valve was closed and secured.
- John and Harry were working without protective equipment for the job they were performing. Had they been wearing the chemical suits, gloves and face shields required for the job, their injuries would have been minimized. As John and Harry discovered, protective equipment offers no protection when it is not used.

### **JOHN'S CONCLUSION**

- At the conclusion of the program, John asks, "So what's the point of telling you this story?"
- Don't wait for a catastrophic event to change the way you do things. Today is the day you can start making a difference in your life and in your children's lives and in the lives of the workers you work with.
- Speak up and make a difference.

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**ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ**

1. a

2. b

3. b

4. h

5. a

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**REVIEW QUIZ**

*The following questions are provided to determine how well you understand the information presented in this program.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. John Martin was a young mechanic known to take shortcuts to get the job done.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
2. It's okay for some workers to take shortcuts and ignore safety procedures, as long as most people follow the rules.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
3. John made sure they took the time to visually inspect the valve to verify it had been secured.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
4. Which of the following contributed to John's incident and injuries?
  - a. Off-job distractions affected his decision-making process
  - b. John and his co-workers were routinely allowed to commit unsafe acts
  - c. Production pressures
  - d. Poor planning
  - e. Poor communication
  - f. Improper lockout/tagout procedures
  - g. Lack of PPE
  - h. All of the above
  
5. Protective equipment offers no protection when it is not used
  - a. True
  - b. False