

## Book Review

# FORECASTING TOMORROW

## The Future of Safety Excellence

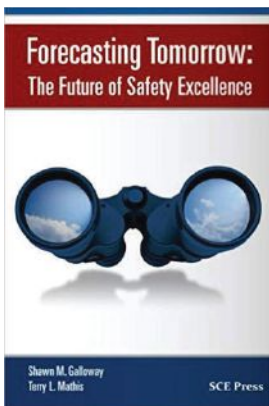
By Shawn M. Galloway and Terry L. Mathis, 2015, Rosemead, CA: SCE Press

A review by Melissa Mark, CSP, ASP

**Forecasting Tomorrow:** *The Future of Safety Excellence* provides hard-hitting realizations about what the future role of the OSH professional needs to be to stay relevant and to continue to add value to the business. But it is not a book only for the OSH professional, as it speaks to the broader concept of safety excellence being part of the overall business strategy and the role of operational leaders in re-framing safety excellence.

The book offers seven predictions of the future focus of safety efforts, such as that operational leaders will actually lead safety; that the safety professional will move from grunt to guardian to guru; and that safety metrics will focus on value (evolving from lagging to leading to transformational indicators).

The book challenges historic perceptions of safety excellence as focused on zero, and instead gets us thinking that safety is not separate from the business strategy but must be intertwined into it. It allows us to see the future of safety driven by the changing workplace; the impact of technology on providing new tools



for safety; the concept of better practice versus best practice; success in safety being gauged by value added and not solely by incident reduction, and provides some tools to consider for being prepared for the future.

The book is well written, well laid out and provides a structured flow of the key focus areas with several examples from the authors' experiences working across many industries.

The book's overall strength is that it is for anyone, from OSH student to OSH professional to operations manager, or CEO. I found myself highlighting many sections of the book and rereading several chapters. Even though it was published 4 years ago, I have been energized by the book as I think about my career in the OSH profession, having come from the operations side of the business.

I plan to continue to refer to the concepts I highlighted and look forward to reading the next suite of books and articles from the authors.

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# SAFETY LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

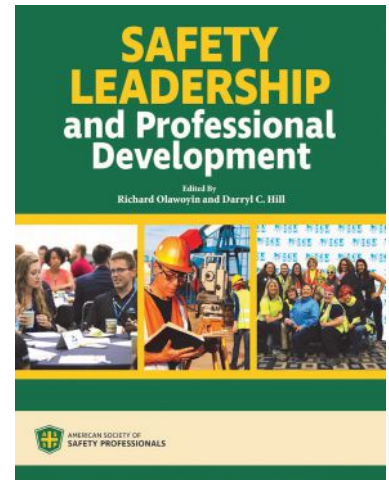
By Richard Olawoyin and Darryl C. Hill, 2018, Park Ridge, IL: ASSP

A review by Todd Clayton, CSP, CHST, STS

**The authors of** *Safety Leadership and Professional Development* do a good job of laying out for new students or inexperienced safety professionals some of the top success criteria of the safety profession and what will create a successful culture. As an experienced safety professional, I, too, found several valuable reminders of important safety topics.

The text is arranged in a logical way that explains the path forward in each chapter of the book. This arrangement makes sense for the basic concepts of the book. I say "basic" because entire books and courses are dedicated to each of the chapter topics. The authors effectively detail safety management. This is always needed for safety success at any company. Without management commitment, the safety professional and company safety process will languish. The authors discuss global safety which is important as an increasing number of companies globalize directly or indirectly.

A minor criticism is the title of the book. The title indicates that the book is about safety leadership, which is a great topic. However, early parts of the book reference environmental health and safety. Although many jobs today have an environmental component and the concepts of leadership will transfer from safety to environmental topics, the addition of environmental requires a practitioner to study a different discipline. Safety leadership will not help with content knowledge in the environmental area. A quick discussion about available resources for acquiring environmental knowledge would have been a valuable addition to this text. Discussing how and why the safety professional is often



tasked with environmental duties would also have been a positive addition.

Overall, the book is a good compendium for starting out in the safety field. It details several key success criteria for a safety professional and it lays them out nicely with each chapter, identifying key terms, learning objectives and a concept abstract.

If you are looking for a new text to start a safety class or a starting point text, for a graduate curriculum, this is a good book to utilize. It will not run out and replace all recently published beginning safety class textbooks. But, if an upgraded text is needed, this would be a good upgrade. This book would also be helpful to a person outside safety academia looking for basic safety knowledge.

Interested in reviewing a book?  
Contact us at [professionalsafety@assp.org](mailto:professionalsafety@assp.org)