Cultural Factors Affecting Risk Perception

Our Society Glorifies Risk

- Taking risks often presents too much of a positive experience.
- Fixes are more popular than prevention.
- Including Academia.

Common Risk Factors / Examples

- **90%** Unsafe Acts
  - Selecting the wrong protective clothing.
  - Incorrect use of safety equipment and/or disabling safety devices.
  - Ignoring safety policies and procedures.
- **10%** Unsafe Conditions
  - Safety equipment that is not properly maintained.
  - “Jury Rigged” or “Field Expedient” lab equipment.
  - Lack of training in operating and/or safety procedures.

Risk Analogy

“Swimming pools can be dangerous. To protect people, one can install locks, put up fences, and deploy pool alarms. All of these measures are helpful, but by far the most important thing that one can do is teach them to swim.” (Thornburgh & Lin)

Reference

Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA)

[www.cshema.org](http://www.cshema.org)