

Faulty Towers: A review of the Smiler Rollercoaster Accident



Date **Tuesday the 14th of May 2019**

Time **18:30 for 19:00 start**

Location **The Three Sisters, 139 Cowgate, Edinburgh EH1 1JS, UK**

Entry is **Free of charge**. Attendees will have to pay for their own food and drinks on the night

Please **Register online** at www.icheme.org

Presenter

David Sparkes

David is a freelance process safety engineer with a keen interest in control system safety and incident investigation. He is also Lead Process Engineer for 3FBio Ltd; an award-winning biotech startup based in Glasgow.

Incident

Rollercoasters are intended to give us the illusion of danger, whilst actually being incredibly safe. However, in June 2015 the "Smiler" ride at Alton Towers went terribly wrong when two trains collided mid-track, seriously injuring four people.

The park's management initially blamed human error, but was this really the full story? This talk will summarise the findings of the HSE's own investigation to explain what happened and why. We will also discuss the parallels between this incident and others within the chemical industry. Could our own plants be just as prone to failure, and if so, what can we do to make sure they stay safe?

Event overview

Disastrous Dinners is a series of talks focusing on an accident or disaster and what can be learned from it. After the presentation, there will be a social dinner and drinks along with lots of time to continue the discussion.

The aim of Disastrous Dinners is to cover a wide range of accidents, including those from outside the process industries. As a result there should be something for everyone to learn from, whether they are a student, recent graduate or seasoned engineer.