

ABSTRACT

A Study of Health and Safety Practices at The University of
The West Indies
St. Augustine Campus.

Richard Smith.

Safety Standards in a University environment must be at least as high as those which are enforced by legislation in comparable areas elsewhere. Staff and Students are the University's most valuable asset and care for both are of overriding importance during the period of unprecedented and exhilarating change. Professionals leaving the University of the West Indies should take with them an attitude of mind, which accept good safety practices as the norm. In this research project, the Health and Safety provisions of the St. Augustine main campus estate were examined using various techniques- Field Investigations, Questionnaire Process, Review of existing Plans and Policies, Disaster Preparedness and Risk and Hazard Assessment.

Although systems, policies and procedures are in place, which allow for a healthy and safe environment, these entities are not fully operational, functional and efficient. In essence, the findings were conclusive and showed that a safety culture is non-existent on the main campus.

Thus both the human system and the physical structure need to co-exist in a symbiotic relation for the integration and contribution to a vibrant, efficient, effective and a safe operational environment.

Education, increased awareness and new management interventions could bring about the paradigm shift from the status quo, one which can contribute towards sustainable development as an entity (University) and to the wider community.

Keywords: Richard Smith; Health and Safety; Safety Culture.