

Error Precursors

short list

Task Demands		Individual Capabilities	
• Time pressure (in a hurry)		• Unfamiliarity w/ task / First time	
• High Workload (memory requirements)		• Lack of knowledge (mental model)	
• Simultaneous, multiple tasks		• New technique not used before	
• Repetitive actions, monotonous		• Imprecise communication habits	
• Irrecoverable acts		• Lack of proficiency / Inexperience	
• Interpretation requirements		• Indistinct problem-solving skills	
• Unclear goals, roles, & responsibilities		• “Hazardous” attitude for critical task	
• Lack of or unclear standards		• Illness / Fatigue	
Work Environment		Human Nature	
• Distractions / Interruptions		• Stress (limits attention)	
• Changes / Departures from routine		• Habit patterns	
• Confusing displays or controls		• Assumptions (inaccurate mental picture)	
• Workarounds / OOS instruments		• Complacency / Overconfidence	
• Hidden system response		• Mindset (“tuned” to see)	
• Unexpected equipment conditions		• Inaccurate risk perception (Pollyanna)	
• Lack of alternative indication		• Mental shortcuts (biases)	
• Personality conflicts		• Limited short-term memory	