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Be a Skeptic - It Makes You Smarter

Article by Alan Quilley CRSP

I absolutely LOVE learning new things. It's especially exciting to hear/read about new solutions to old persistent problems. Unfortunately it's all too easy to get excited about these "new" discoveries when they are announced and/or discussed on LinkedIn or other social media. That excitement should be enjoyed until of course, through further research, you find out that the "study" the new discovery is based on was 12 people. Even worse, the evidence is anecdotal ONLY and "they ALL FEEL BETTER when asked. "Hardly objective, nor verifiable.

Belief by "best seller" is another all too common problem! The safety community, like many others, is searching constantly for the next GREAT thing. Because that discovery may help us accomplish our goals of assisting ourselves and our fellow humans to safely live our collective lives. It's easy to get caught up in what sounds like a GREAT idea to solve the safety problems! So why not get excited about the next GREAT thing in safety management? Well, actually we should but not before being VERY skeptical about the discovery. By the way, being skeptical is NOT a negative thing. Underlying good skeptical thinking is looking for objectively gathered and analysed evidence. Great claims with no evidence are only MYTHS and interesting ideas. The truth ALWAYS comes from objectively verifiable evidence.

There is a huge difference in what we believe and what may actually be true. As long as we separate the things we know objectively and what we THINK we know, we'll be fine. The mind plays wonderful tricks on us. It is well documented that the mind is terrible at some things. Optical illusion is just one example. The direction of low frequency sound is another. What we think we see or hear is not what is actually there. Sometimes in our zeal to know the unknown, we may fill in the blanks to create the appearance of us knowing something we don't. This is the fundamental reason that in early human history the sun was a flaming chariot crossing the sky and NOT the ball of gas it actually is. How do we know it's a ball of gas? Objective evidence.

It is the search for objective evidence that will help people separate what humans actually know and what we think we MAY know. It doesn't mean what you are convinced is true isn't... it just means it MAY be true but we need more information. Here are a few clues that you should be skeptical about the next GREAT thing:

When the support for the information starts with "My brother-in-law had X and he was cured by (fill in the blank brand of snake oil or pseudoscience)."

I read it on Facebook/LinkedIn/Twitter/Any Newspaper or On-Line Blog you can think of

I saw it on YouTube!

Remember, we learn by first questioning. Watch any 5 year old go through their day. It's a very good thing that we do. Just don't be satisfied with the first answer you come across, ask another question. The best question I was EVER asked was "Why do you think that AI?" If you can't answer that question with objective evidence please consider looking for more sources of evidence! It's the evidence that will lead us to the truth AND we'll all be smarter because of it!

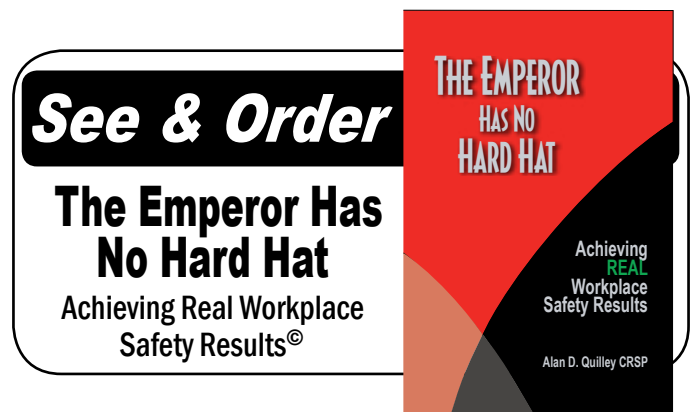
"Learn to love the questions as much as you love the answers." - Neil deGrasse Tyson



LinkedIn CRSP Exam Preparation Study Group

Alan created this group for those that are planning on writing the exam to discuss study strategies and tips. Join us at:

[Alan's CRSP Exam Preparation Study Group](#)



Another Way That We Help CRSP Candidates!

Alan created a website to further assist you in your studies. He also posted, for your FREE download, 90 questions (in two series of 45 questions). This could cost over \$80.00 on a competitor's site! The practice Q & A are based on the 2015 CRSP Blueprint.

Stay tuned for even more questions and study tips at:

[Safety Results CRSP Exam Preparation Site](#)

You'll find the practice questions and answers at the following links:

[Safety Results CRSP Practice Questions - Series 1](#)

[Safety Results CRSP Practice Questions - Series 2](#)

Compliments for our CRSP Exam Prep Workshops

I just wanted to thank you very much for putting together the CRSP Prep course. I passed!

The course was extremely well organized, which was greatly appreciated!

I think you have done an excellent job putting together materials for candidates who are looking to write the exam. I found your study materials really helpful.

I will definitely recommend the course to others in the future.

Congratulations and thank you all for your kind comments! We appreciate them!

CRSP EXAMINATION PREPARATION WORKSHOPS 2018

Sherwood Park	April 13 - 15
Calgary	April 18 - 20
Sherwood Park	July 13 - 15
Calgary	August 15 - 17
Sherwood Park	September 21 - 23
Sherwood Park	November 30 - December 2

Our intense 3 day CRSP Examination Preparation Workshop fee is \$999.00 + GST. Here's why we think we can help and why it's important to research fully when you are researching CRSP Examination Preparation Workshop providers and instructors.

Our Workshop includes the following:

- Material updated to the current BCRSP Blueprint
- Our Manual and Workbook (\$600.00 value)
- Our CRSP Exam Prep Multiple Choice/Quick Answer FlashCards (\$105.00 value)
- Our Handbook which contains additional practice questions and answers (Handbook is available *only* to participants at the workshop)
- Material is contained in a coveted Safety Results canvas attaché bag which includes pen, highlighter, calculator, notebook for notes and Post-its.
- Lunches and refreshment breaks
- Special offer – We are the *only* workshop provider that has a special offer for participants of our Workshop: If you write the CRSPEX and are unsuccessful, you may attend another sponsored Safety Results Ltd. CRSP Examination Preparation Workshop for a nominal fee. The workshop must be taken within one year of your first workshop with us and further conditions apply - please check with us for more details. If you see other providers with this same offer, it will be because we did it first.

When broken down, the value added features of our Workshops cannot be beat.

What makes us different? No boring lectures here! Alan Quilley CRSP, our dynamic instructor engages participants, truly demonstrating that you can enjoy learning. Sifting through mountains of paper presented in an illogical manner isn't efficient, nor is sitting in a classroom answering hundreds of practice questions. How do we know? Because our students have told us.

Why not learn from an industry leader who actually works with companies, helping them create their Health and Safety programs? With decades of practical experience, highly experienced in Adult Education and the knowledge to help you focus your studies to make your examination writing positive and successful, why look elsewhere? Our business was created and has centered around educating adults in OH&S topics

We don't just teach it, we live it.

Our course format is often imitated but never surpassed. Don't be fooled by cheaper imitations of our workshop process and content. Safety Results Workshops are the gold standard of preparation workshops!

For more details and to register, please visit our [CRSP Workshops](#) page. *Please note that if you have registered for a workshop, but not paid for your spot, we are not holding a seat for you.*

And remember that if you are unable to attend one of our Workshops, you can purchase the very same Manual, Workbook, Multiple Choice/Quick Answer and Long Answer FlashCards that our students receive in our Workshops. Visit our [CRSP Exam Prep Materials](#) page for more details!