

How can we handle learning from accidents?

Mattias Strömgren ^{a, b}

Marcus Johansson ^c

^a Dept. Public Health Sciences and Risk Management, Karlstad University, Sweden

^b Swedish Rescue Services Agency, Karlstad, Sweden

^c Swedish National Centre for Learning from Incidents and Accidents, Sweden

A 16 year old boy died in a train collision



- The crossover was built wrong
- The boy could pass through the gate by his bicycle without slowing down the speed
- He was hit by the train and died later

A good example of learning from accidents ?!?

- The risk was known – similar accident had happened before
 - The authorities knew the fault with this crossover but improper risk management / misunderstanding had prevented correction
 - The crossover was rebuilt two days after the accident
- 



Every day



Every year



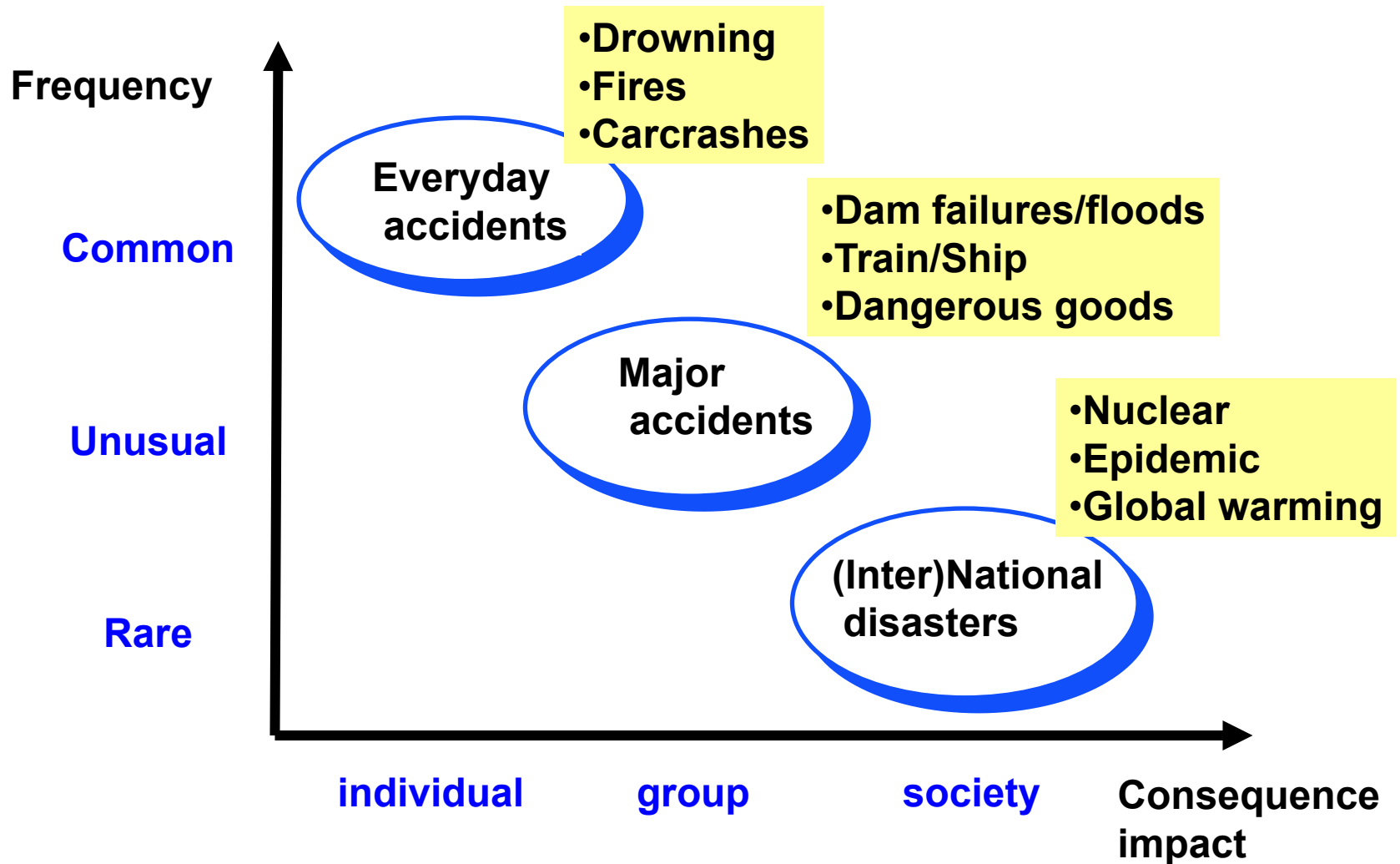
Every decade



Foto: Michael Ekstrand



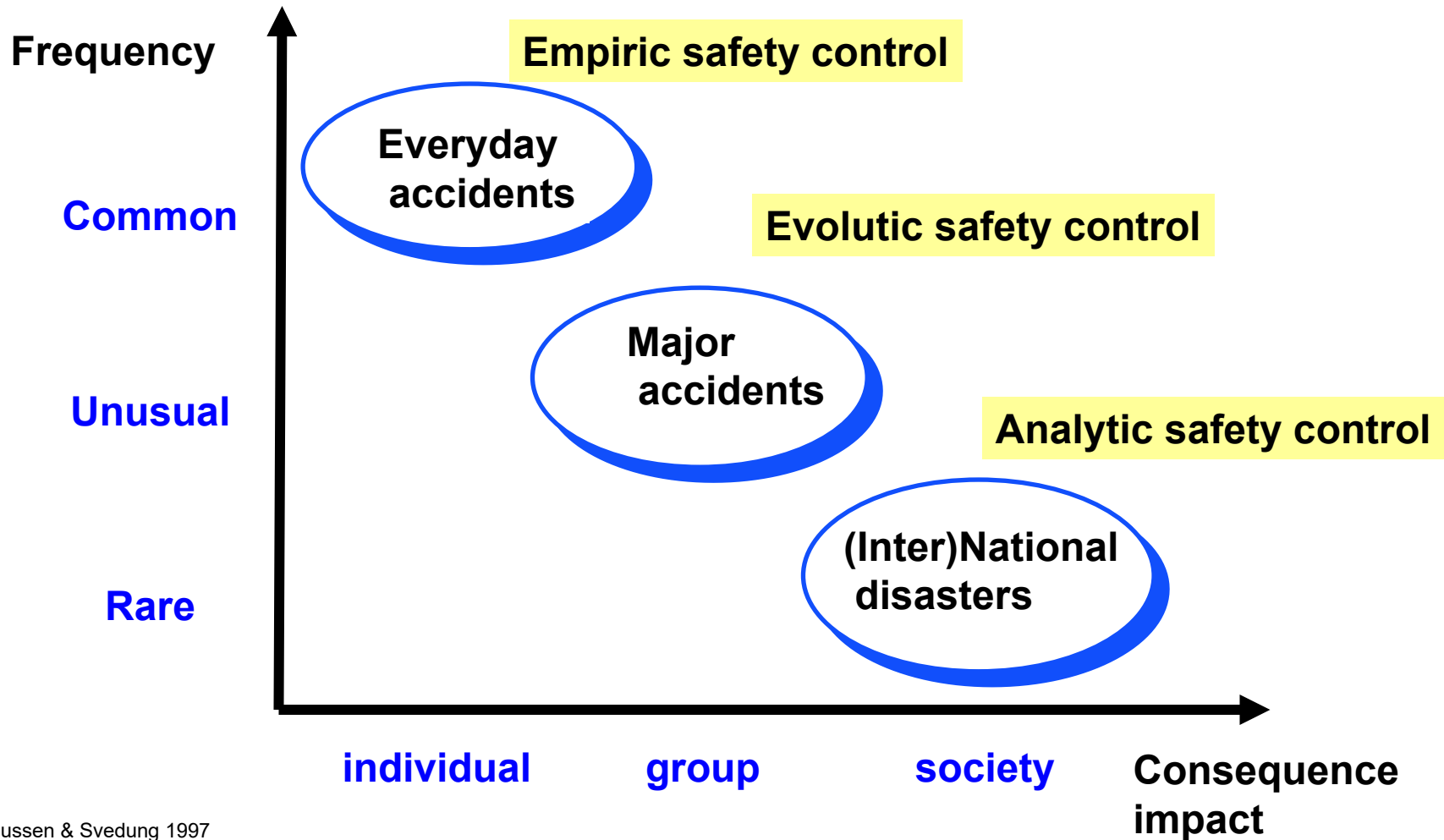
Aspects of Differing Scales and Perspectives



The changes of society require new learning

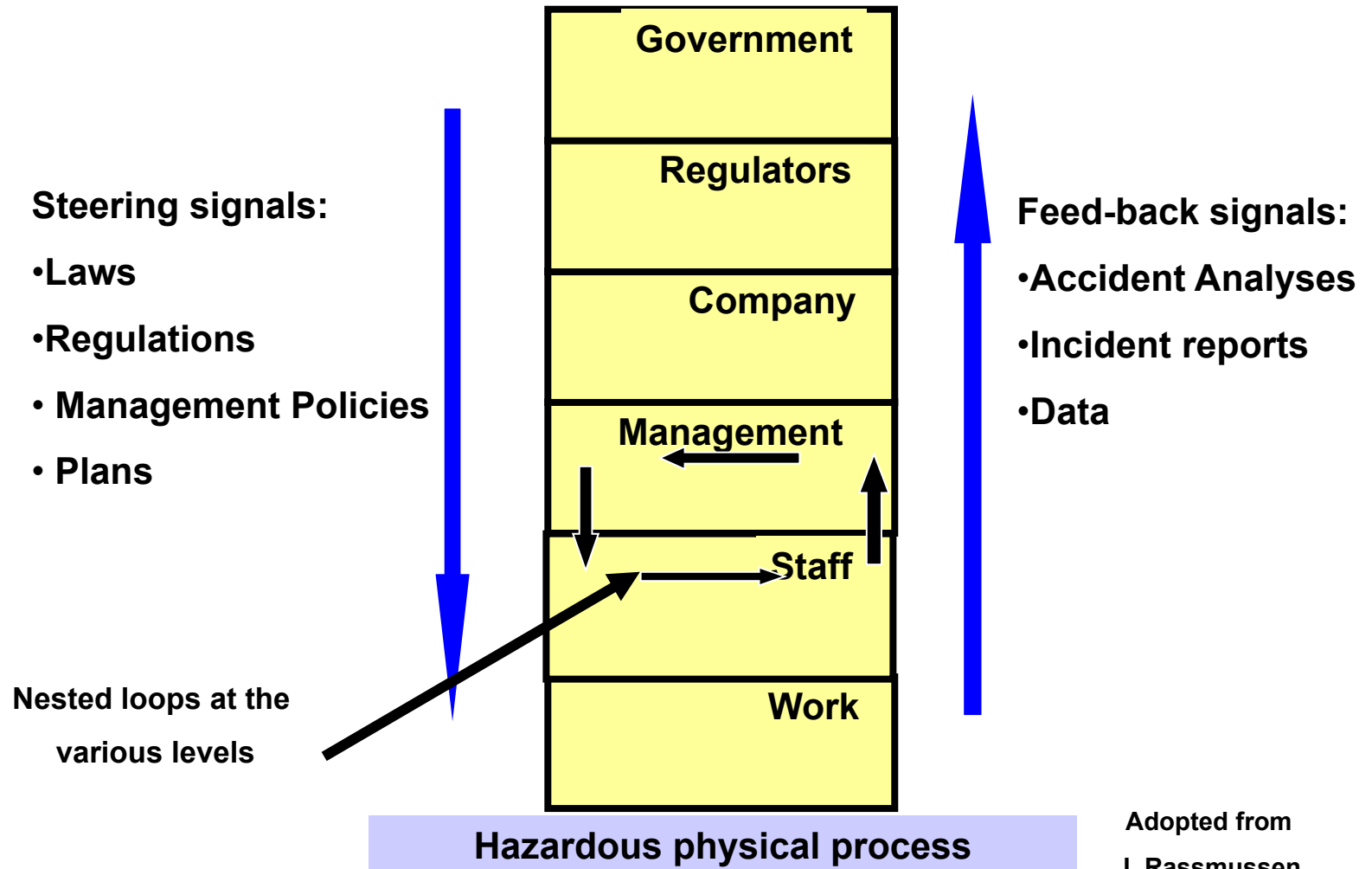
- Faster changes / higher development rate
- New risks
- More complexity and interaction
- Changing regulation
- Lower tolerance
- Less resources

Different strategies



From Rasmussen & Svedung 1997

The socio-technical system



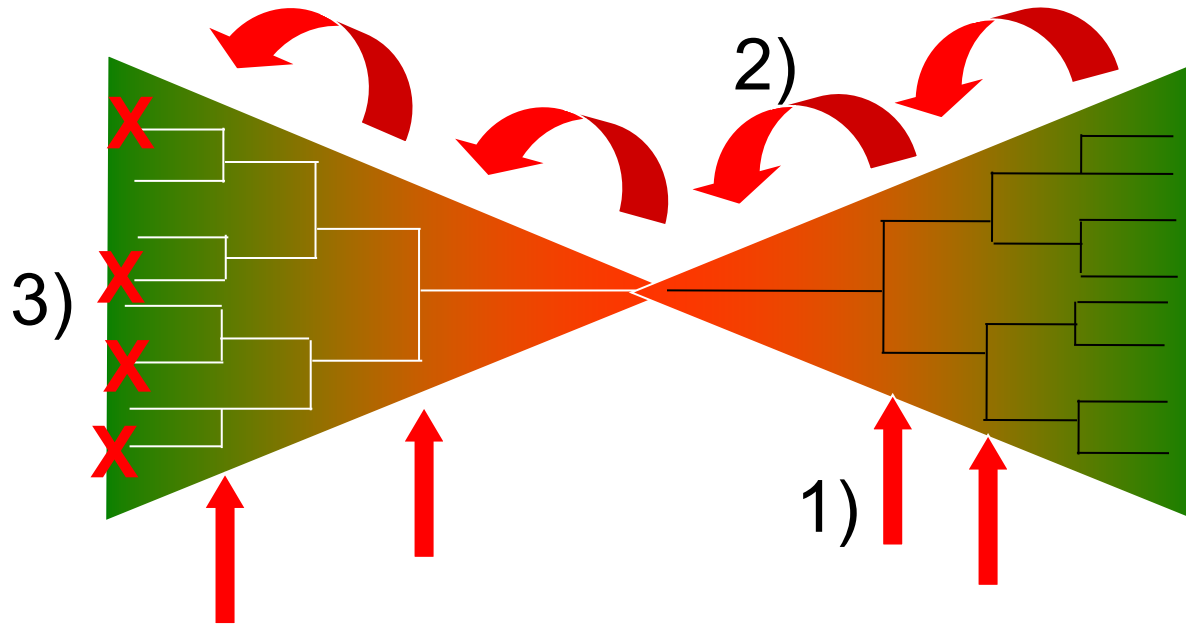
Adopted from
J. Rasmussen

A learning purpose

- How happened the accident?
- Why did it happen?
- Which were the circumstances by the time for the accident?
- Why led the accident to this impacts?
- Are there any supporting measures that can prevent a similar accident?
- Are there any pardonable or resilience measures that can tolerate some mistakes?



Learning tasks



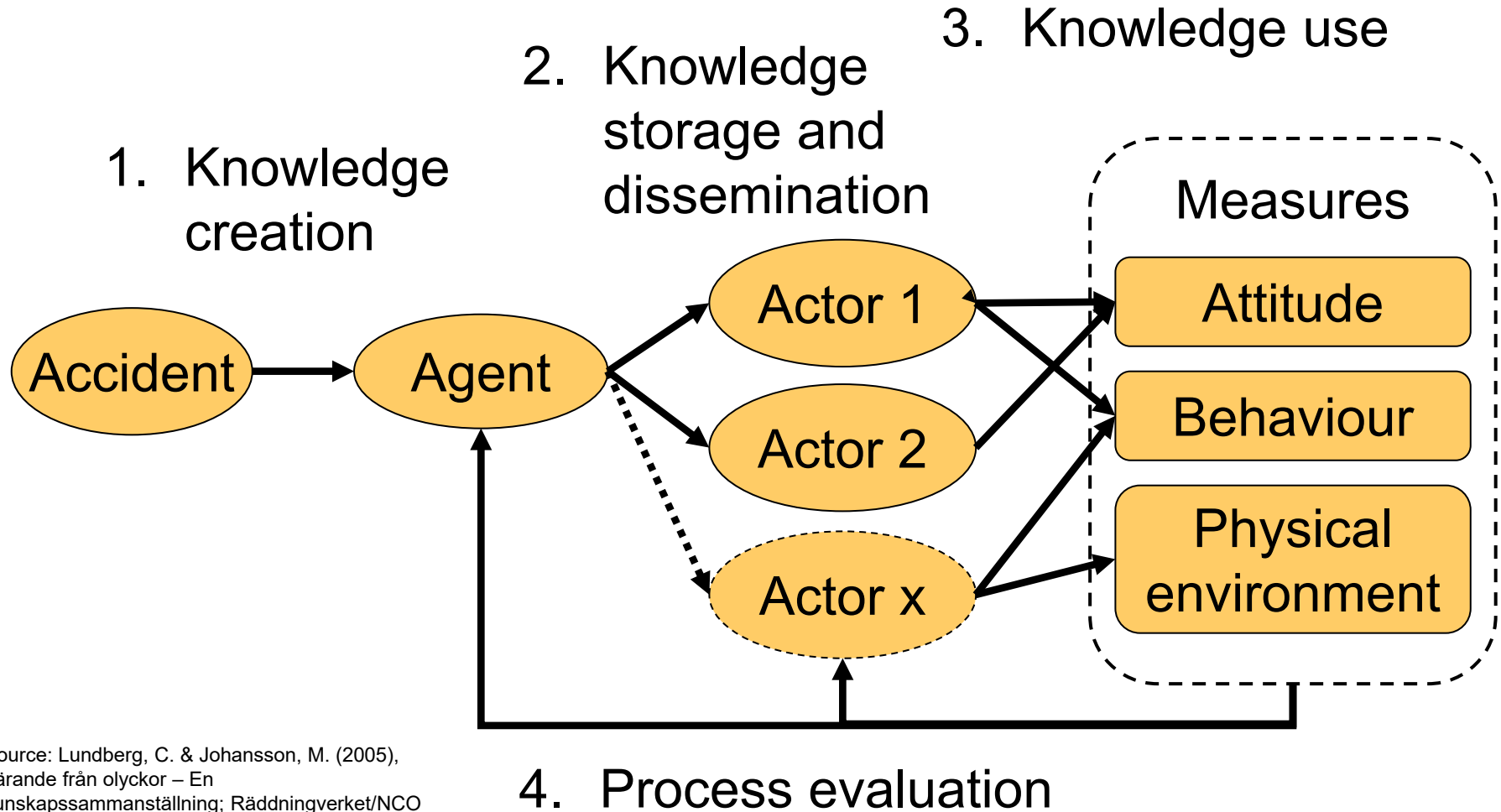
Learning tasks: To collect data from all phases/perspectives, analyse it and disseminate knowledge/lessons learned in order to

1) Strengthen existing barriers

2) Build new, more proactive, barriers

3) Remove underlying causes

Model for learning from accidents



Source: Lundberg, C. & Johansson, M. (2005),
Lärande från olyckor – En
kunskapssammanställning; Räddningverket/NCO

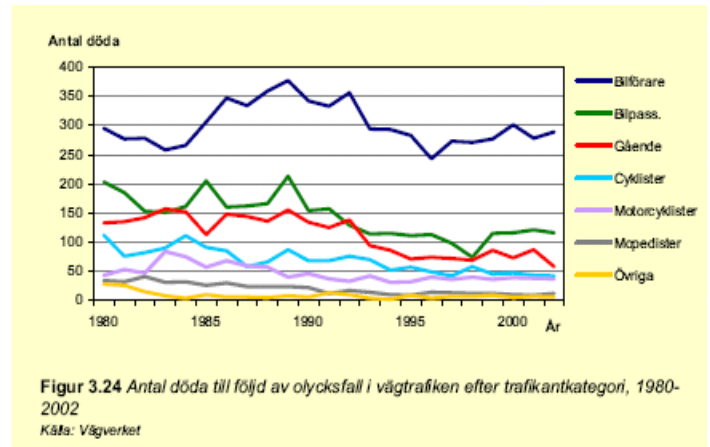
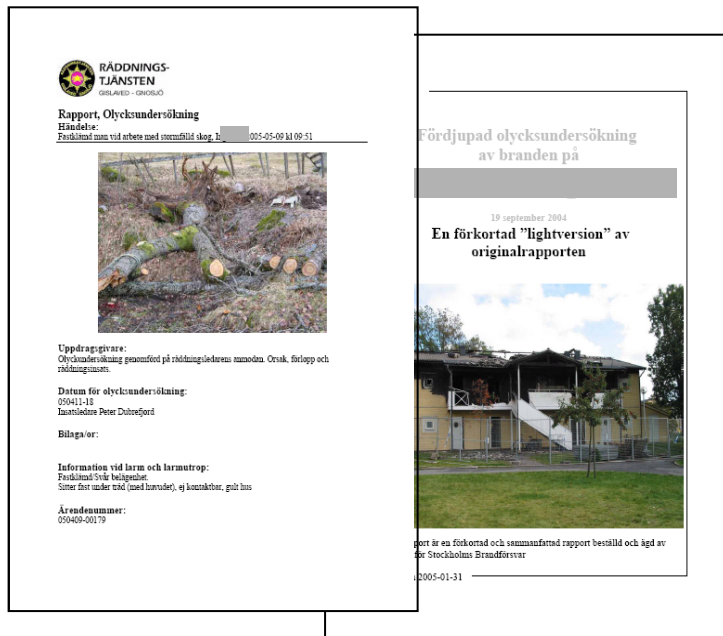
Knowledge creation

- Accident investigation
- Injury surveillance
- Accident and injury records

[illegible]

Knowledge storage and dissemination

- Accident investigation reports
- Databases
- Accident and injury statistics

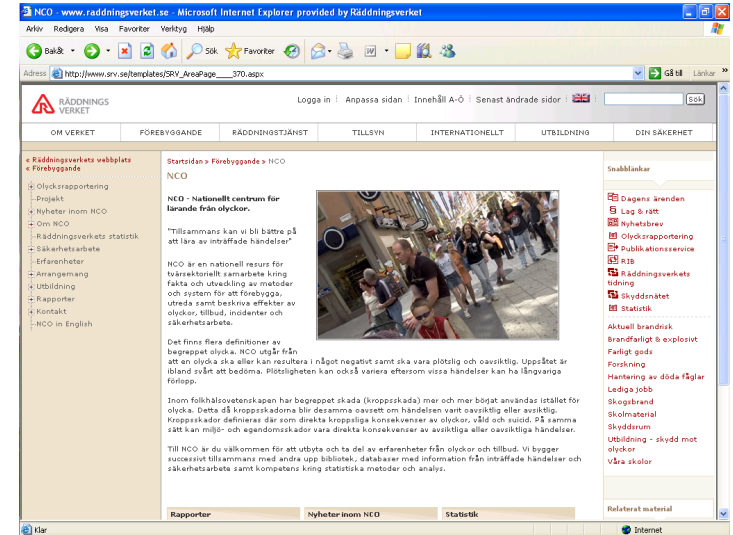
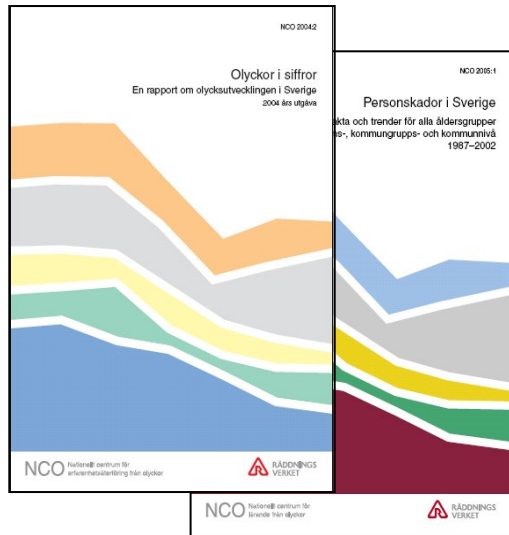


Tabell 70
Antal slutenvårdade, totalt och per åldersgrupp

Kön	År	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Totalt	döda	129 420	128 417	127 710	128 350	130 507	134 244	140 073	146 191	147 162	145 376	135 774	127 828	132 535	131 967	136 336
0-14	döda	15 671	15 378	15 738	15 373	15 076	15 126	15 798	16 752	16 818	16 105	15 556	15 064	15 815	15 333	15 285
15-24	döda	16 832	16 221	16 510	15 496	14 379	14 425	14 267	14 935	14 579	13 931	13 328	11 575	12 341	12 299	12 857
25-44	döda	24 833	23 518	23 243	22 853	22 531	23 751	24 297	25 732	25 492	24 559	22 728	20 525	21 474	21 380	21 264
45-64	döda	20 795	20 565	20 042	20 429	21 093	22 338	23 697	25 652	26 146	25 424	24 049	23 049	23 594	24 080	25 356
65-79	döda	27 849	28 223	27 537	28 174	29 339	30 496	32 035	32 241	32 373	32 921	29 101	27 443	28 323	27 443	28 362
80+	döda	23 440	24 512	24 640	26 025	28 089	28 108	29 979	30 879	31 754	32 436	31 012	30 172	30 988	31 432	33 212
Män	döda	63 850	62 948	62 801	62 477	62 384	64 773	66 735	69 663	70 021	68 800	65 144	60 160	63 118	62 760	64 997
0-14	döda	9 322	9 283	9 485	9 208	9 028	9 011	9 408	9 907	9 949	9 654	9 389	9 000	9 468	9 128	9 274
15-24	döda	10 994	10 656	10 714	10 044	9 305	9 307	8 975	9 334	9 045	8 599	8 319	7 136	7 595	7 577	7 833
25-44	döda	15 816	14 906	14 878	14 515	14 189	15 038	15 146	15 808	15 406	14 916	13 958	12 344	12 982	12 692	12 694
45-64	döda	11 099	10 948	10 852	11 009	11 307	11 870	12 580	13 633	13 890	13 356	13 115	12 474	12 769	13 184	13 843
65-79	döda	10 744	11 082	10 776	11 086	11 527	12 273	12 786	12 901	13 200	13 403	11 954	11 131	11 722	11 453	11 974
80+	döda	5 875	6 073	6 096	6 615	7 028	7 274	7 840	8 080	8 531	8 872	8 409	8 075	8 582	8 726	9 379
Kvinnor	döda	65 570	65 469	64 909	65 873	68 123	69 471	73 338	76 528	77 141	76 576	70 630	67 668	69 417	69 207	71 339
0-14	döda	6 349	6 095	6 253	6 165	6 048	6 115	6 390	6 845	6 869	6 451	6 167	6 064	6 347	6 205	6 011
15-24	döda	5 838	5 565	5 796	5 452	5 074	5 118	5 292	5 601	5 534	5 332	5 009	4 430	4 746	4 722	5 024
25-44	döda	9 017	8 612	8 365	8 338	8 342	8 713	9 151	9 924	10 086	9 643	8 770	8 181	8 492	8 688	8 570
45-64	döda	9 696	9 617	9 190	9 420	9 786	10 468	11 117	12 019	12 256	12 068	10 934	10 575	10 825	10 896	11 513
65-79	döda	17 105	17 141	16 761	17 088	17 812	18 223	19 249	19 340	19 173	19 518	17 147	16 312	16 601	15 990	16 388
80+	döda	17 565	18 439	18 544	19 410	21 061	20 834	22 139	22 799	23 223	23 564	22 603	22 097	22 406	22 706	23 833

Knowledge storage and dissemination

- Web pages
- Reports
- Training courses
- Workshops/seminars



Knowledge use

Knowledge should be used to choose and implement measures in order to increase safety

The learning could have influences on:

- Attitude
- Behaviour
- Physical environment

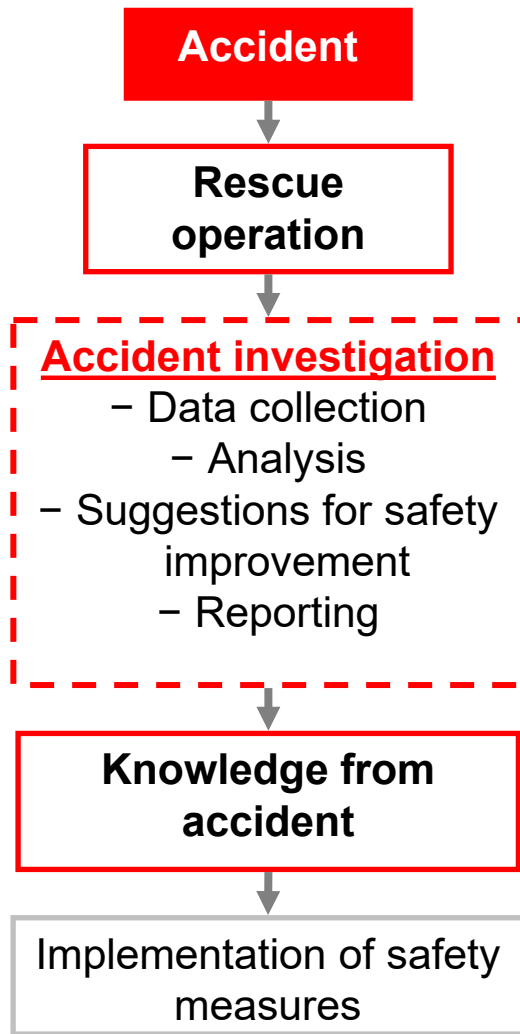


Process evaluation

The learning process should be evaluated

- Improvement on *Knowledge creation*
 - Are the *Knowledge creation* systematic and relevant?
- Improvement on *Knowledge storage and dissemination*
 - Are the *Knowledge storage and dissemination* efficient?
 - Are the knowledge well communicated to the appropriate actors?
- Improvement on *Knowledge use*
 - Are the knowledge used in a proper way?
 - Are the measures valid and adequate?

Accident investigation in municipality



Focus at

- Accident cause
- Course of events
- Rescue operation

Other accident investigations

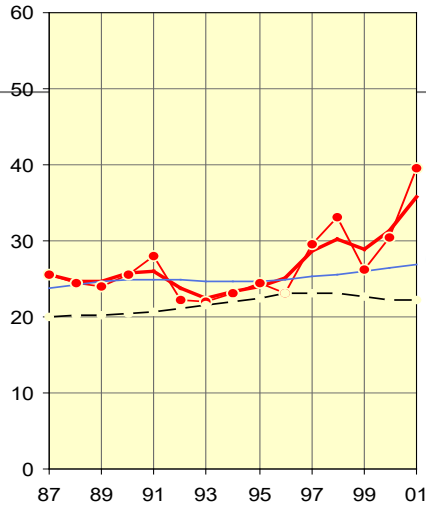
- Traffic accidents - Swedish Road Administration
- Electrical accidents - The Swedish National Electrical Safety Board
- Railway accidents - Swedish Rail Agency
- Accidents at workplaces - The Swedish Work Environment Authority

NCO – Swedish National Centre for Learning from Incidents & Accidents

The vision of the NCO

More effective safety work
through improved common
learning from incidents,
accidents, injuries and damage.

NCO – Swedish National Centre for Learning from Incidents & Accidents



Be an arena for cross-sectorial co-operation and competence development



Foto: ULF LARSSON

Develop lessons learned from incident, accident and safety work

Give a comprehensive picture and assessment of accident development and safety work

