

Quality Assurance Principles for Child Safety

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- [7-Year-Old Somer Thompson Missing in Grove Park, Florida](#)
- By Pete Kotz in [Child Abuse, missing persons, unsolved](#)
- Tuesday, Oct. 20 2009 @ 3:48PM

- Three people tried to lure another 5-year-old into a car only days before Somer vanished. Second-grader Somer Thompson was walking home from Grove Park Elementary School Monday with her twin brother and her 10-year-old sister. She reportedly got into a fight with another kid, so she decided to run home ahead of them.

But when the two other kids arrived at their Orange Park, Florida home, Somer wasn't there. And she hasn't been seen since. Police are worried that her disappearance may be the work of pedophiles. On October 10, three people tried to lure a 5-year-old girl into a car in the same area.

Detectives are in the process of interviewing 57 sex offenders who live within a three-mile radius, searching homes and property. Today they expanded the search to another 30 more perverts in a 5-mile radius. They say they're not focusing on sex offenders exclusively, but given the attempted abduction on October 10, it seems an imperative first step...

Sun Tzu; The Art Of War

- “The general who wins a battle makes many calculations in his temple before the battle is fought.
- The general who loses a battle makes but few calculations beforehand.
- Thus do many calculations lead to victory, and few calculations to defeat: how much more no calculation at all!
- It is by attention to this point that I can foresee who is likely to win or lose.”

Introduction

- Gary Houseman
- Welcome fellow Quality Assurance Professionals!
- BA Business Admin
- MA Business Admin/Human Relations
- Master Certificate in Project Management
- US Navy Helicopter Pilot
- 30 years in Quality Assurance Management Positions

How do we get from QA Professional to Child Safety?

- Thank President Obama
- 60 years old-job prospects questionable
- Looked for opportunities to start new business
- Under-lap between AS9100 Revs B & C
- Discovered Child Safety companies selling Child Photo ID Kits, fingerprint kits, DNA kits, Child Locator products

How do we get from QA Professional to Child Safety?

- Occurred to me while watching CSI that IDs, fingerprints & DNA are only used to identify victims of crime that can no longer speak for themselves
- Looked for a system to prevent children from being abducted
- Found Child Shield
- What can be more important than the safety of children?

Basis of Knowledge

- Child Shield's training available to all subscribers
- Child Abduction; Prevention, Investigation and Recovery
 - Copyright 2008, Robert L. Snow-Captain (ret) Indianapolis Homicide Division
- Predators; Pedophiles, Rapists & Other Sex Offenders—Who are they, how do they operate and how can we protect ourselves and our children?
 - Copyright 2003, Anna C Salter, PhD, Behavioral Psychologist

WARNING!!!

- Both of the books previously mentioned are truly excellent in their discussion of child safety and the danger posed by child predators BUT....
- You'd better have a strong stomach because the factual information based on actual case studies on abducted children and the child predators who abducted and/or molest them is enough to make your skin crawl!!!

The Role of Processes

- QA Professionals live, breathe (and sometimes die) with processes
- Input → Process → Output
- The only way to achieve desired results

Results of Good Quality at Work

- If we do our jobs properly at work
 - Reduced nonconformities-less hassle
 - Reduced costs
 - Happy bosses
 - Happy customers
 - Big Buck \$\$\$ rewards for a job well done! (lol)

Results of Poor Quality at Work

- If we don't do our jobs properly or are prevented from doing them properly:
 - Unhappy bosses
 - Unhappy customers/cancelled projects
 - Product recalls
 - Corrective Actions
 - Process Improvement Initiatives
 - No opportunity for the BIG BUCKS \$\$\$

Results of Good Child Safety Practices at Home

- Our children come home for dinner every night
- Our children have a happy well adjusted childhood

Results of Poor Child Safety Practices at Home

- Children may not come home for dinner one night
- Children may be traumatized for life
- Your entire way of living may be destroyed in an instant and you may live the remainder of your life with feelings of guilt and remorse
 - You had an opportunity to do something to increase the probability your child would be safe but did not do anything about it

How do Quality Principles Apply to Child Safety?

- You need to understand the facts about child predators
- You need to review the processes you have in place at home (if any) to teach child safety
- Establish Preventive Action Initiatives
- Determine if Corrective Actions (remember, after the “nonconformity has occurred)
- Plan-Do-Check-Act for “process improvements”

Child Safety Processes??

- At work, processes are carefully considered for critical tasks
 - Agreed to by all parties and implemented
 - Audited for conformance and
 - Improved if found wanting
- Do we have the same attention to detail at home regarding child safety?
 - Frequently “Don’t talk to strangers” is the only rehearsed rule” along with “Look both ways before you cross the street”

The Role of Processes

- How many of us have a formal regular process for teaching, drilling and testing our children's readiness to ward off all attempts to molest, abduct or kidnap our children
- It's an unpleasant subject. How many of us have studied child molesters and would we recognize one if we saw one?
- Do you have a family process for what the child and parents are going to do if a child gets lost in the mall?

I Don't Have Kids Though

- While many of you may have young children, many don't
 - Single
 - Grown Children
- Most have grandchildren, nieces, nephews, close friends with children
- If you don't have children, you can still nag or noodge those that do into formulating family processes for child safety

But I Know Lots of Kids and None Have Been Abducted or Kidnapped!

- Raise your hands please if you know someone or if you yourself were molested, abducted or kidnapped as a child
- Raise your hands if in the past 6 months you have heard or read a news report about and attempted or accomplished child abduction or a child being molested?

Do We Really Have a Problem?

- Captain Snow; “I can attest that the abduction of children in our country for the purpose of sexual assault occurs much more often and in higher numbers than most of the public would imagine.”
- Why?
 - No government or law enforcement agency keeps records of how many children are abducted or molested!!

The Lack Of Data

- No records are collected or published:
 - For sexual assault
 - By mentally deranged individuals
 - By noncustodial parents
 - For any other reasons
- Every night on the news you get an update on how many people have died so far from Swine Flu—last I heard approximately 300 people including around 81 children
- How many children abducted or molested in the same reporting period? Who knows.

The Stats (or lack thereof):

- FBI Publishes very detailed multi-hundred page annual report “Crime in the United States”
 - Robberies, burglaries, stolen vehicles, murders
 - BUT NO STATS ON MOLESTING OR KIDNAPPING!

So Is There Any Data?

- Sort-of
- Non-governmental researchers created a report published by DOJ “National Incidence of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Thrownaway Children” 1999
 - 262,100 child abductions nationally each year
 - 203,900 by family members
 - 58,200 by non-family members

So Is There Any Data?

- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (Annual Report, 2007 latest available)
 - 800,000 children reported missing 2007 (= 2,000 every day)
 - 200,000 abducted by family members
 - 58,000 abducted by non-family members
 - Primary motive was sexual
 - Latest census: 73.7M children in US < 18 yrs
 - $800,000 / 73.7M = 1\%$ (1 out of every 100 children) reported missing
 - $258,000 / 73,700,000 = .35\%$ (4 out of every 1000 were actually abducted)

Here is another stat

- Center for Missing and Exploited Children Annual Report (2007 latest available)
 - “Two-thirds of the sex offenders in state prisons committed offenses against children.
 - There are more than 620,000 registered sex offenders in the US today *[other internet sites give different figures-which in and of itself is a problem-my comment]*
 - At least 100,000 are noncompliant and missing. No one knows where they are.”

The Quality Response: Preventive Action

- So, we've established that a problem exists
- We've opened the suggestion that we might not be properly prepared to prevent tragedy in our families (if you are fully prepared I apologize for including you in this category-good job!)
- Let's do a PA initiative

PA Process

- Problem exists that may lead to a future nonconformity
- Child molesters, abductors and kidnappers exist and are operating in or near my community
- It is therefore possible that my child may become a victim if I don't take some positive action to prevent it or at least minimize the probability that something bad will happen

PA: Fact Gathering & Definitions

- Understanding the terminology
 - Abduction: any instance where a person, without lawful authority, physically moves another person without that other persons consent (or the consent of a custodial parent or legal guardian)

PA: Fact Gathering & Definitions

- Kidnapping: a special instance of abduction where the abductor takes the victim across state lines. The Lindberg act provides that if a victim is not released within 24 hours of being abducted, a court may presume that the victim was transported across state lines.

PA: Fact Gathering & Definitions

- Child molestation: a crime involving a range of indecent or sexual activities between an adult and an child, usually under the age of 14. In psychiatric terms, these acts are sometimes known as pedophilia.
 - It is important to keep in mind that child molestation and child sexual abuse refer to specific legally defined actions

PA: Fact Gathering & Definitions

- Child Sexual Abuse: a general term for any type of sexual activity inflicted on a child by someone with whom the child is acquainted.
 - It is considered an especially heinous crime because the abuser occupies a position of trust.

Types of Abductions and PA

- Infant abductions
 - Frequently:
 - Unfit parents abducting their own children (e.g. from Child Protective Services)
 - Desperate strangers who want but can't have a baby (mostly women)
 - People with severe emotional problems (thinking a baby will keep a man from leaving)
 - PA
 - At home with a newborn, don't let anybody in unless well know
 - At hospital, consider the procedures used in the newborn wing in selecting a hospital

Types of Abductions and PA

- Family Abductions
 - Unless end in murder or similar, rarely make the news
 - 80% of all child abductions
 - “Oh well—at least child is with a parent/grandparent/other relative so they will be OK—Wrong!”
 - Children abducted by noncustodial parent or other relative have high risk of neglect, sexual and physical abuse or worse

Types of Abductions and PA

- Family Abductions (cont'd)
 - 7% suffered sexual abuse
 - 23% suffered physical abuse
 - 5% suffered both
- Family abductions rarely occur out of love for the children
- Most likely-out of anger and desire for revenge
- Huge psychological impact on child
- PA-clearly spell out custodial arrangements in court
- Get names, addresses, phone numbers, license plate numbers, driver license numbers, vehicle descriptions etc. for each spouse & relatives & friends as part of divorce proceedings & check them out for accuracy

Types of Abductions and PA

- Psychotic Abductions
 - The Devil made me do it (or God, Angels, Voices etc.)
 - Psychosis-a mental disorder in which individuals lose contact with reality
 - Hear voices
 - Have hallucinations
 - Follow instructions given by the voices
- PA-not much you can do but watch your children

Types of Abductions and PA

- International Abductions
 - Today's news
 - Hague Convention
 - US + 80 other countries
 - “Guarantees” immediate return of abducted children to the home country
 - DOES NOT WORK! Many loopholes
 - Dual citizenship of child
 - Local laws and mores (Japan, Arab Countries + other countries just don't like US)
 - Fed Gov't most likely cannot or will not work
 - PA; not much you can do but tell your kids you love them and you would NEVER stop loving them

Types of Abductions and PA; Snatchers

- People who snatch children operate by the same motivations as those who rape women
- The only differences is that child snatchers need to have sex with children just as rapists of adult women need to have sex with adult women
- PA-strangers don't need to talk to children-run away and report it to parents
- Keep doors and windows locked at night or when child is alone. Preferably, protected by an alarm system

Fact Gathering; Sex Offenders

- Studies started in 1929:
 - Female children sexually abused = 24% - 37%
 - Male children sexually abused = 27% - 30%

Fact Gathering; Sex Offenders

- Studies; registered child sex offenders:
 - 232 sex offenders
 - Admitted attempting > 53,000 molestations
 - Claimed success in 38,000 incidents
 - More than 17,000 victims
 - Men who molested out-of-home female children averaged 20 victims
 - Fewer men molested out-of-home male victims but averaged 150 victims each

Fact Gathering; Sex Offenders

- Just Bragging?
 - No
 - In fact, threats of polygraph indicated the numbers given by convicted child sex offenders were considerably UNDERSTATED

Fact Gathering; Sex Offenders

- These men were incarcerated for one or just a few crimes. How do they get away with averaging 150 – 163 victims without getting caught???

Fact Gathering; The Role of Deception

- Deception
 - Lie to Me
 - Lies easily detected on TV
 - Not so in real life
 - Study after study determines that despite their confidence to the contrary, most people are unable to detect lies
 - Public behavior vs Private Behavior
 - No correlation

Fact Gathering; The Techniques of Deception

- The Double Life
 - Child molester's first and most important task
 - Pillar of the community/organization
 - Fabricate a “Character”
 - What people perceive
 - People's assumptions
 - Public appearances mirror private actions
 - Ignores the real issue of deception

Fact Gathering; The Role of Deception

- Look me in the eye
 - Eye contact
 - Lack of nervousness
 - Deliberate and long-running practice

Fact Gathering; The Role of Deception

- Planning and the Setup
 - Master strategists and tacticians
 - Observers of relationships between parents and their children
 - Fill needs the parents aren't giving the child
 - Patient, patient, patient

Fact Gathering; Special Category; Psychopaths

- “Normal” sex offenders:
 - fear detection
 - deceive to maintain freedom
- Psychopaths:
 - no fear
 - no conscience
- Psychopath = Predator
- Not all psychopaths are sex predators
- Do whatever interests them (banks, mugging, rape, child sex)
- 15% – 25% of prison inmates

Fact Gathering; Special Category; Psychopaths

- Normal liars feel guilt
- Psychopaths don't
- Football quarterback-fake run/pass
 - Deceived the defense
 - No guilt
 - Pride
- Totally unprepared for psychopaths
 - Assumptions of guilt wrong

BIG PICTURE PREVENTIVE ACTION

- Be suspicious of everyone!
- Sex offender registries
 - Local & National
 - Include those with “State Background Checks”
 - Auto updates
- Don’t drop your child off at sports practices
- Watch for overly friendly adults & touchy/feely types

BIG PICTURE PREVENTIVE ACTION

- Be suspicious of:
 - Camping trips with other adults
 - Parents of friends where your child frequently goes to play
 - Gifts brought home by your child
- Believe your child!
- Watch for sudden changes

BIG PICTURE PREVENTIVE ACTION

- You can't be with your child 100% of time
- Develop an effective interactive child safety training program
- Not a one time event
- Not a video
- Parental involvement is mandatory
- Don't scare the kids with gory details

First PA, Now CA

- Curing child sex offenders
 - No cure
 - Prison = Masters Degree
 - Like alcoholic-one day at a time
- Behavior modification programs
 - Some but not all
 - Re-offense rate reduced by 40%
 - Out of every 100 offenders, 60 will re-offend

First PA, Now CA

- For you and your child-No Corrective Action.
 - If your child is molested, abducted or kidnapped, its too late for CA
- Better have a good emergency response/recovery system in place
- Activate it immediately

Nonconforming Child Safety Processes at Home?

- What to do?
- Plan-Do-Check-Act
- Start a Process Improvement Initiative-today!
- Make your children “Street Smart”
- Don’t forget Internet Safety
 - Donna Rice Hughes-”Enough is Enough”

Child Shield, USA

- I tried to give this talk without plugging my business
- If you want more information on Prevention of Abduction/Kidnapping and a highly effective recovery program:
- www.childshieldusa.com/safechild
- 19 years in business, 1.5M children enrolled, 3 reported missing, all 3 safely recovered < 5 days
- I will get you more specific information on how to keep your child safe