

# Human error: models and management

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## Models and management

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## Human error: models and management

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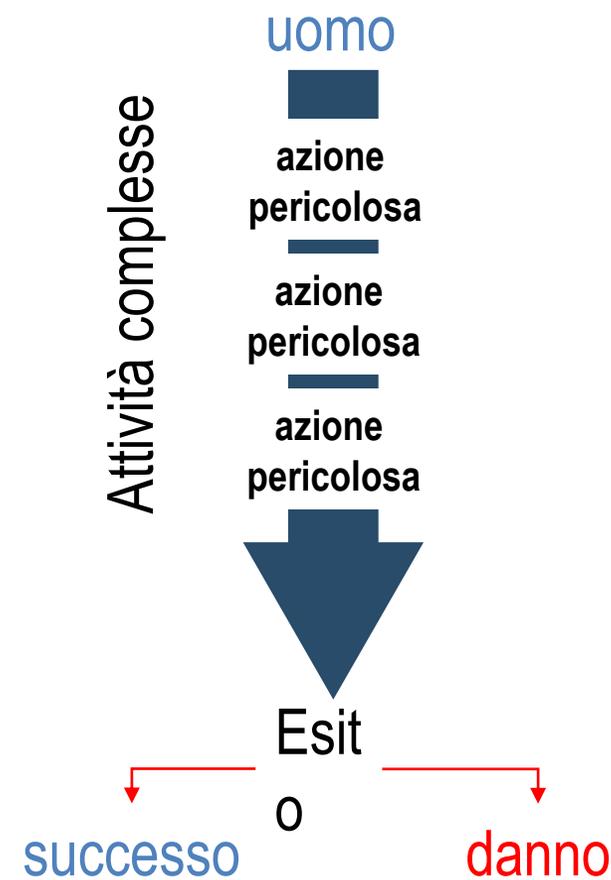
## Approccio individuale

## Approccio di sistema



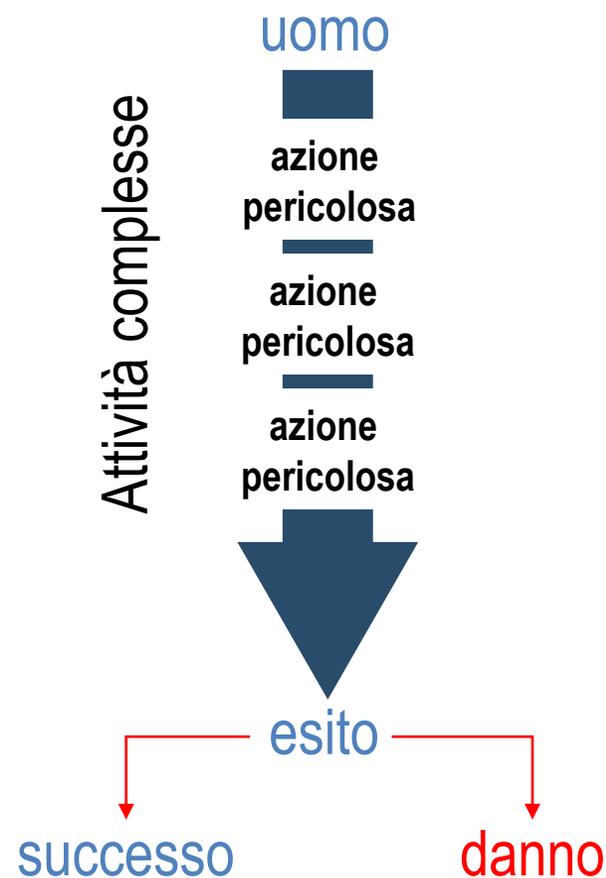
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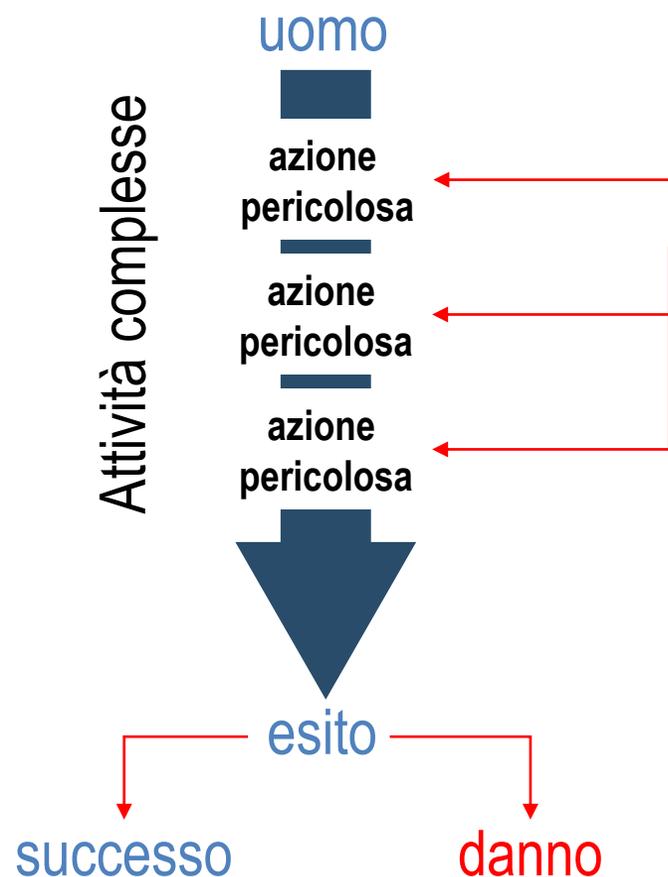
## Approccio individuale

## Approccio di sistema



## Approccio individuale

## Approccio di sistema



“È abbastanza ovvio che le **contromisure** sono dirette principalmente a **ridurre variabilità** indesiderata nel **comportamento umano...**”

## Approccio individuale

## Approccio di sistema



...Tali metodi includono poster, campagne che si appellano al **senso di paura alle persone**, la redazione di procedure, misure disciplinari, minaccia di contenzioso, riqualificazione,...

## Approccio individuale

## Approccio di sistema

Prescriptions  
require a  
signature.

Shouldn't  
surgery?

A new procedure is in place to help prevent errors in the operating room. It's called Sign Your Site. Before any surgery, the doctor signs the correct spot on the body where an operation is to occur, while the patient watches and verifies. Orthopaedic surgeons have been advocating it for years. Now, even more doctors are doing it. Visit [aaos.org](http://aaos.org) to find out more, because when it comes to surgery, there's no such thing as being too cautious.

AAOS  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS  
Patient safety is no accident.  
[aaos.org](http://aaos.org)

Bone  
and Joint  
D E C A D E  
—2002-USA-2011—

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## Approccio individuale

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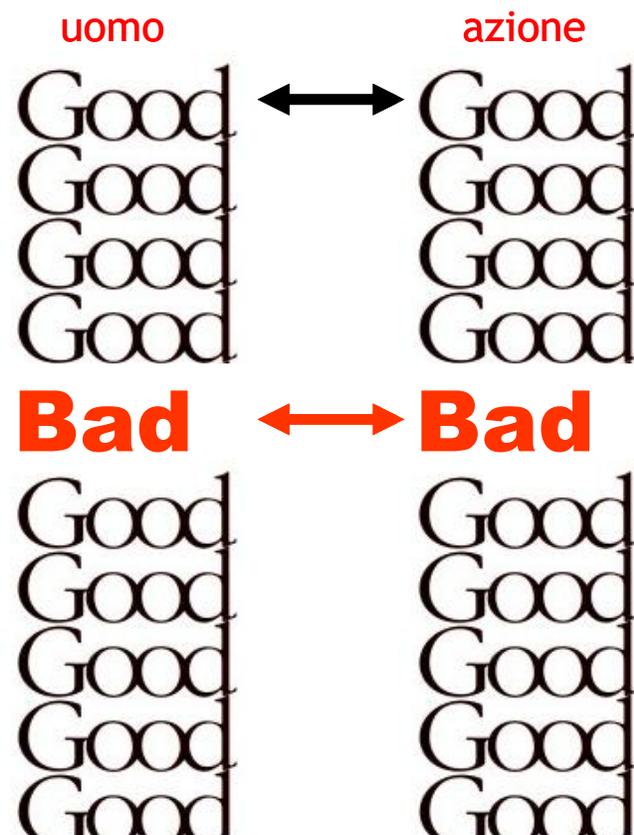
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Approccio individuale

Approccio di sistema

## La dimensione morale dell'errore

ipotesi del mondo giusto



cose cattive capitano alle persone cattive

## Approccio individuale

## Approccio di sistema



Tale approccio considera che origini del singolo **errore** sono **azioni** sbagliate **isolate** loro **contesto** organizzativo.

## Approccio individuale

## Approccio di sistema

Le persone sono considerate come agenti liberi in grado di scegliere tra modi di comportamento sicuri e non sicuri.



Se qualcosa cosa va storto, sembra evidente che un singolo (o di un gruppo di individui) deve essere stato responsabile.

## Approccio individuale

### Approccio di sistema

Nella'approccio individuale, due importanti caratteristiche dell'errore umano tendono a essere trascurate.



In primo luogo, sono spesso le **persone migliori** che commettono gli **errori peggiori**

## Approccio individuale

## Approccio di sistema

Nella'approccio individuale, due importanti caratteristiche dell'errore umano tendono a essere trascurate.



In secondo luogo, le disavventure tendono a cadere in schemi ricorrenti.

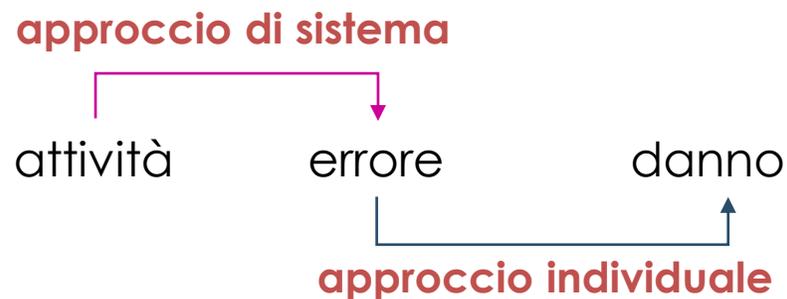
Lo stesso insieme di **circostanze simili** possono provocare errori, **indipendentemente dalle persone coinvolte.**

Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

La premessa fondamentale nell'approccio di sistema è che gli esseri umani sono fallibili e gli errori si possono verificare anche nelle migliori organizzazioni.

## Approccio individuale

## Approccio di sistema



Gli **errori** sono considerati come **conseguenze** piuttosto che come cause, che hanno la loro origine non tanto nella perversità della natura umana intesa come fattore di sistema a monte...

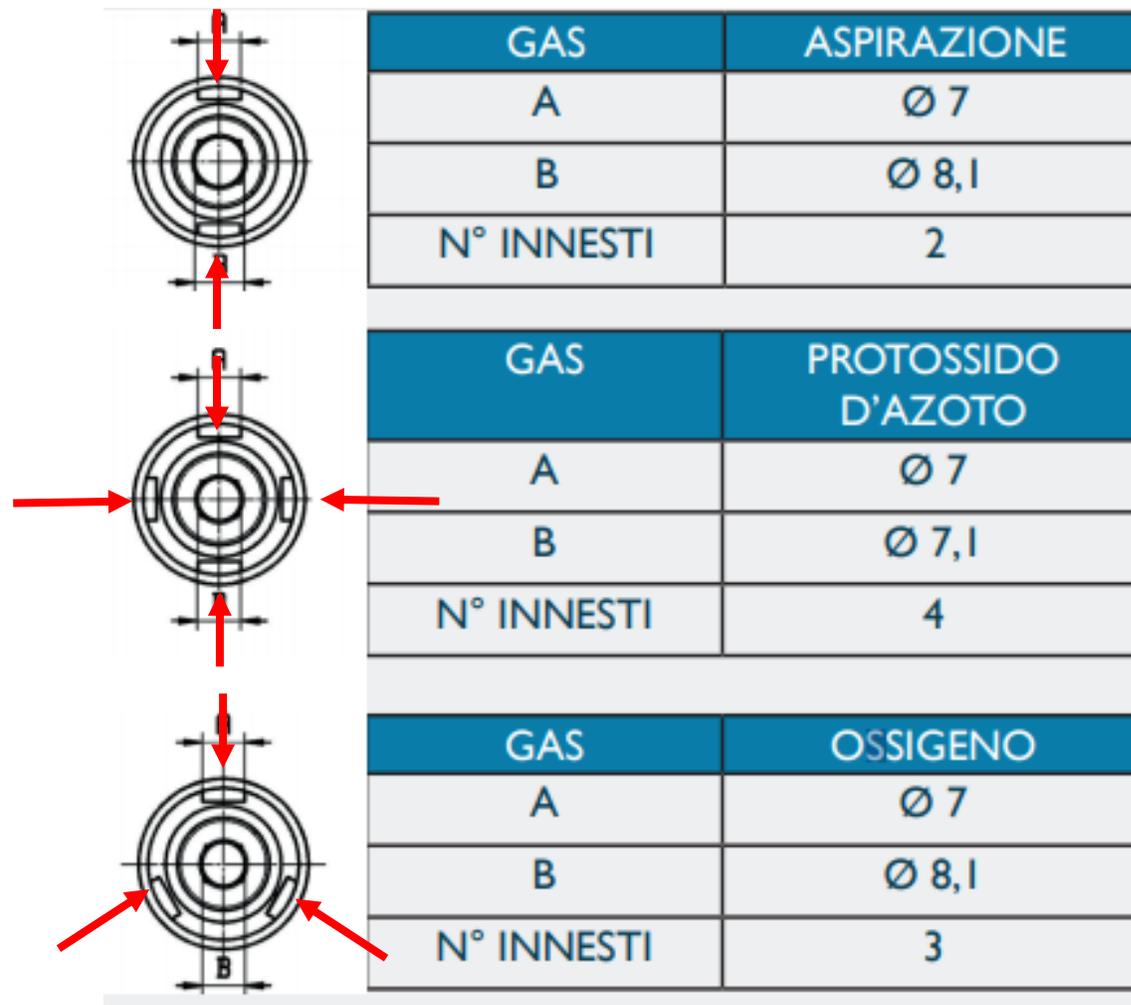
Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

L'idea centrale è quella del sistema di difesa.



Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

L'idea centrale è quella del sistema di difesa.



Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

...Quando un evento avverso si verifica,  
l'importante questione non è chi ha sbagliato...



Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

...ma come e perché le difese hanno fallito.



Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

I sistemi altamente tecnologici hanno molti strati di difesa:

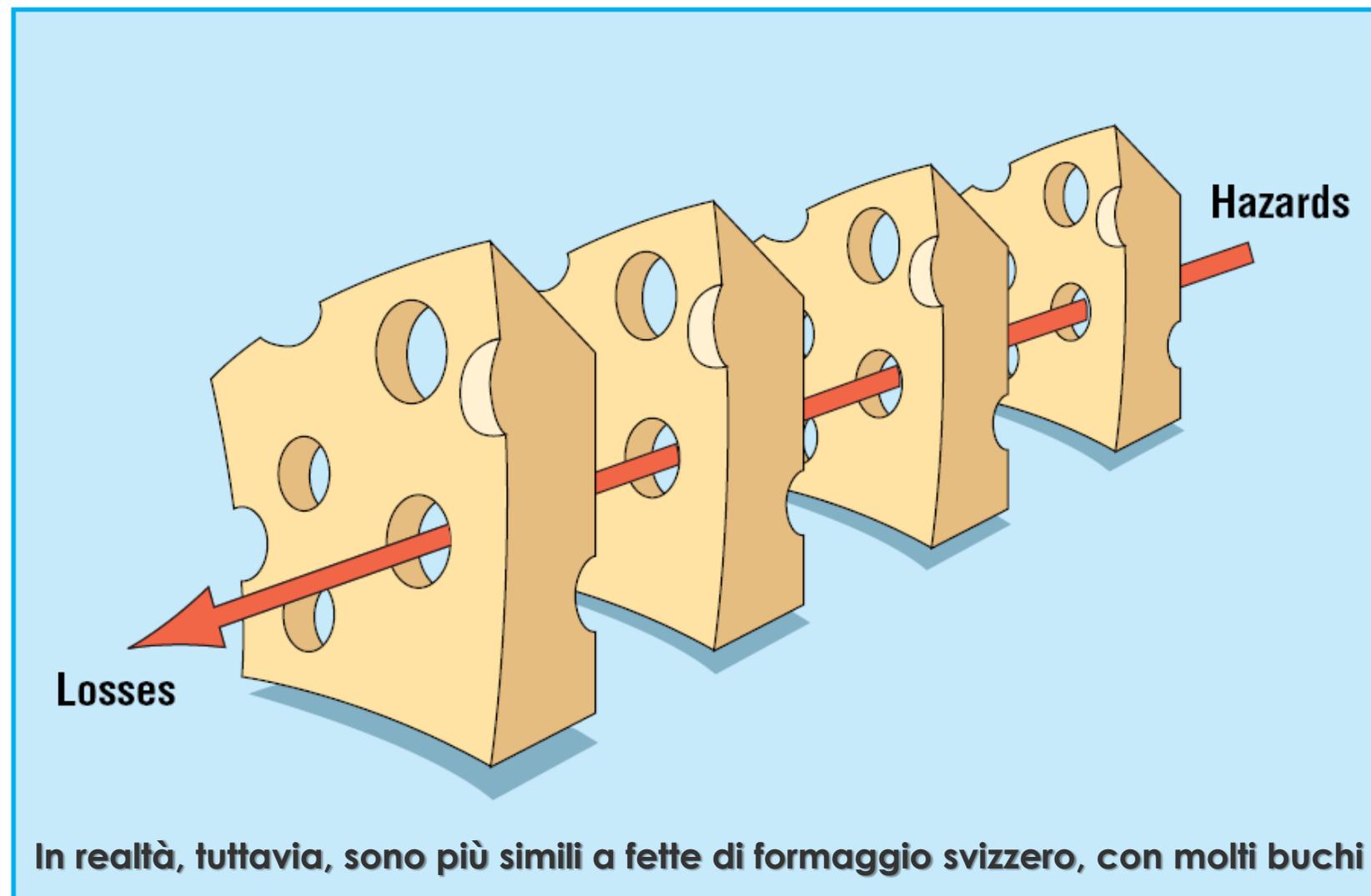
- **alcuni sono ingegneristici**  
(allarmi, barriere fisiche, chiusure automatiche, ecc),
- **altri si basano sulle persone**  
(chirurghi, anestesisti, piloti, operatori della sala di controllo, ecc),
- **altri ancora dipendono da procedure e controlli**

Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

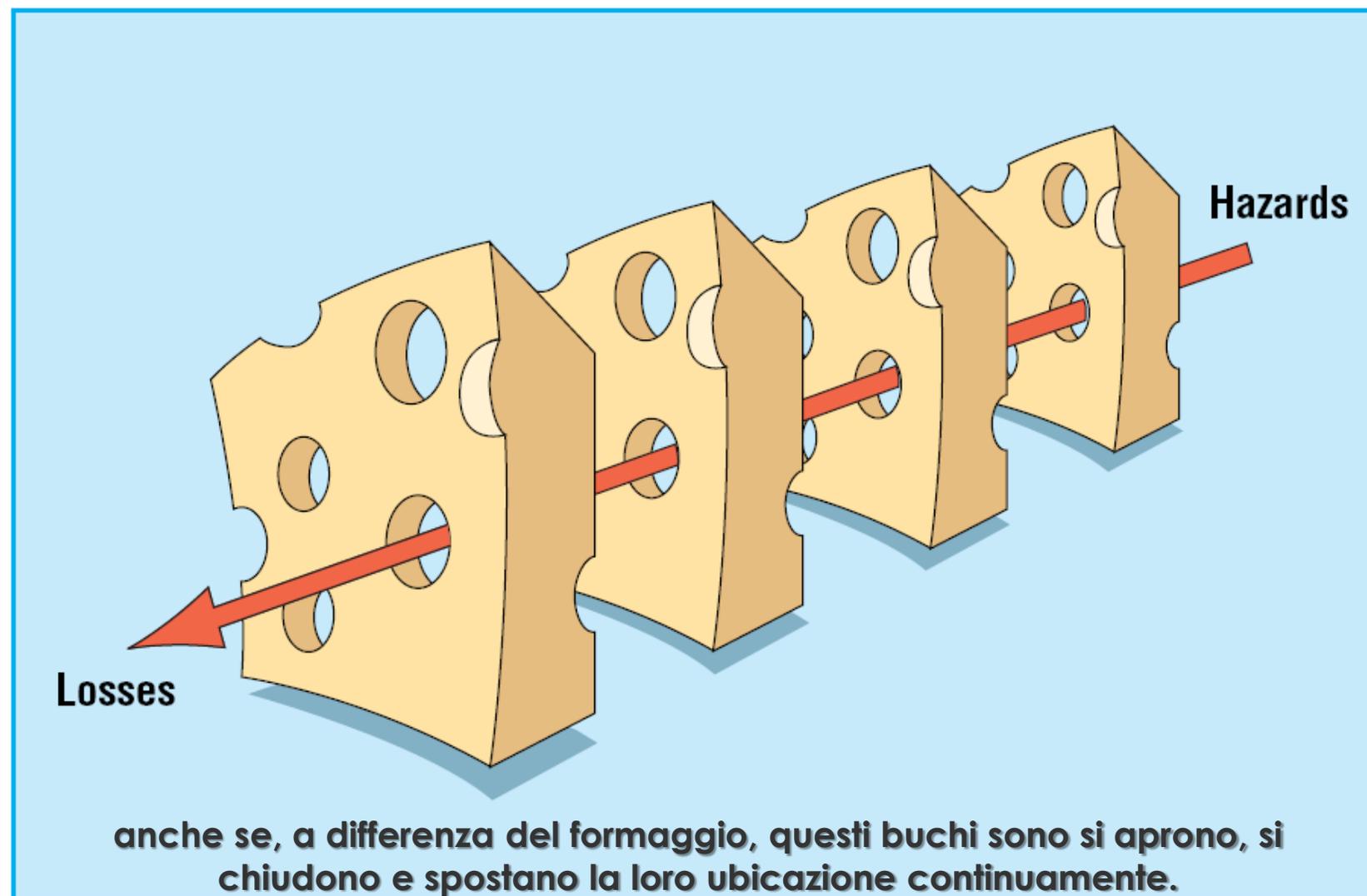
Difese, le barriere, di sicurezza e occupano una posizione chiave posizione nell'approccio di sistema.

Molti di questi sistemi svolgono la loro funzione di difesa in modo molto efficace ma ci sono punti deboli.

Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

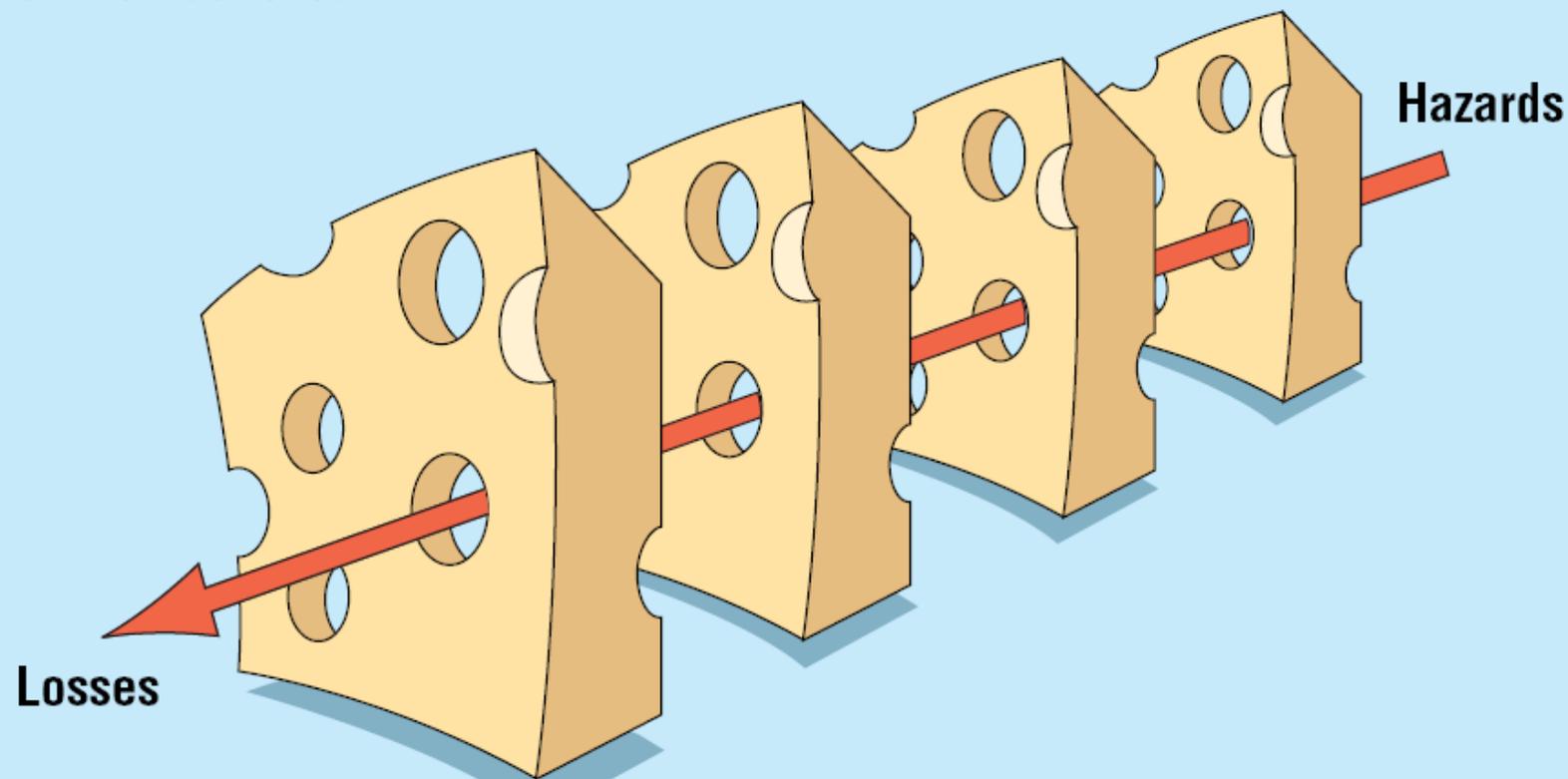


Approccio individuale  
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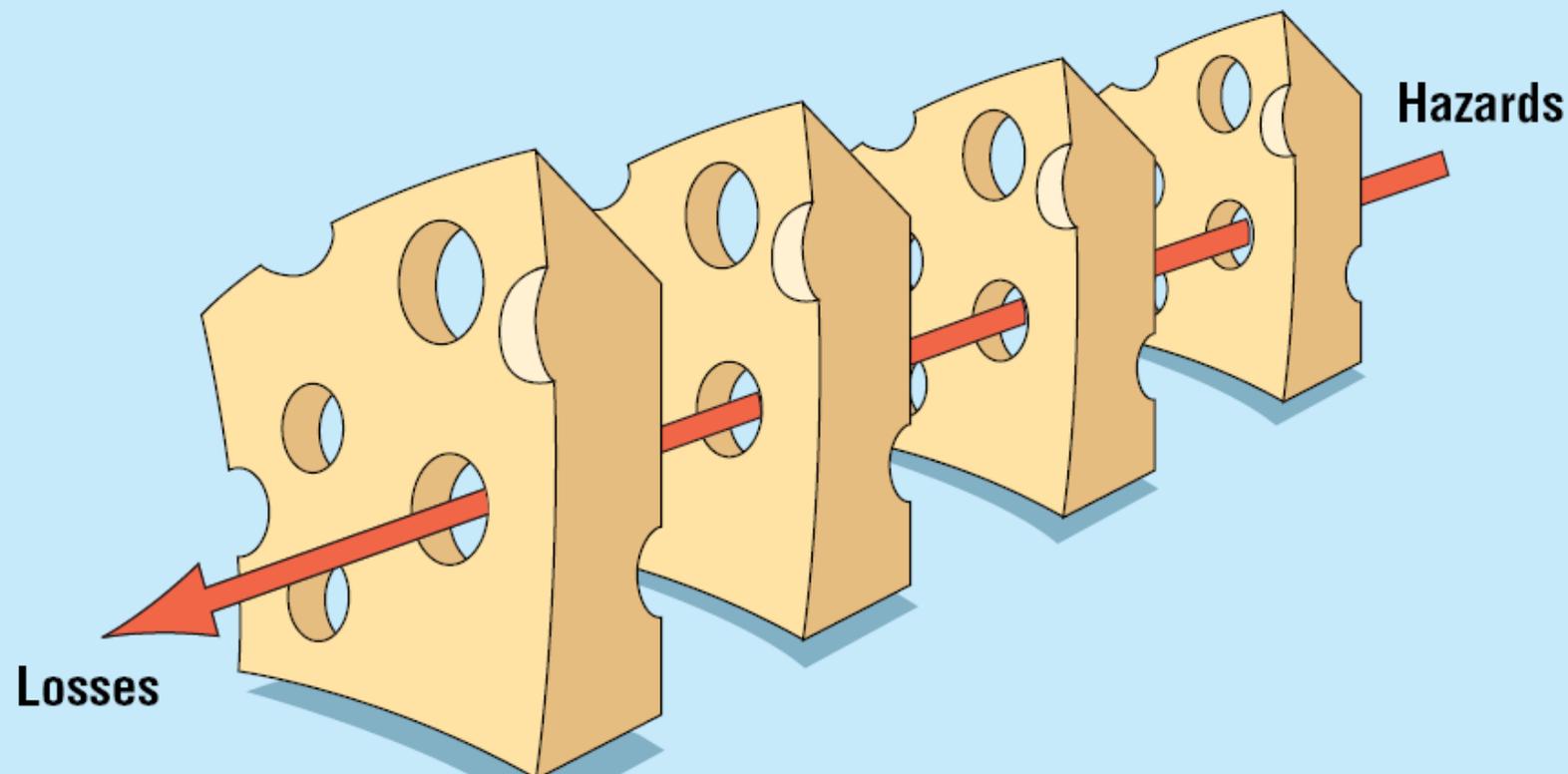
La presenza dei buchi in una "fetta" normalmente non causa un cattivo risultato.



Di solito, questo può accadere solo quando i buchi sono presenti contemporaneamente e sullo stesso tragitto in molti strati, fino a consentire una **“traiettoria dell’opportunità di incidente”** portando l’errore a contatto delle vittime.

Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

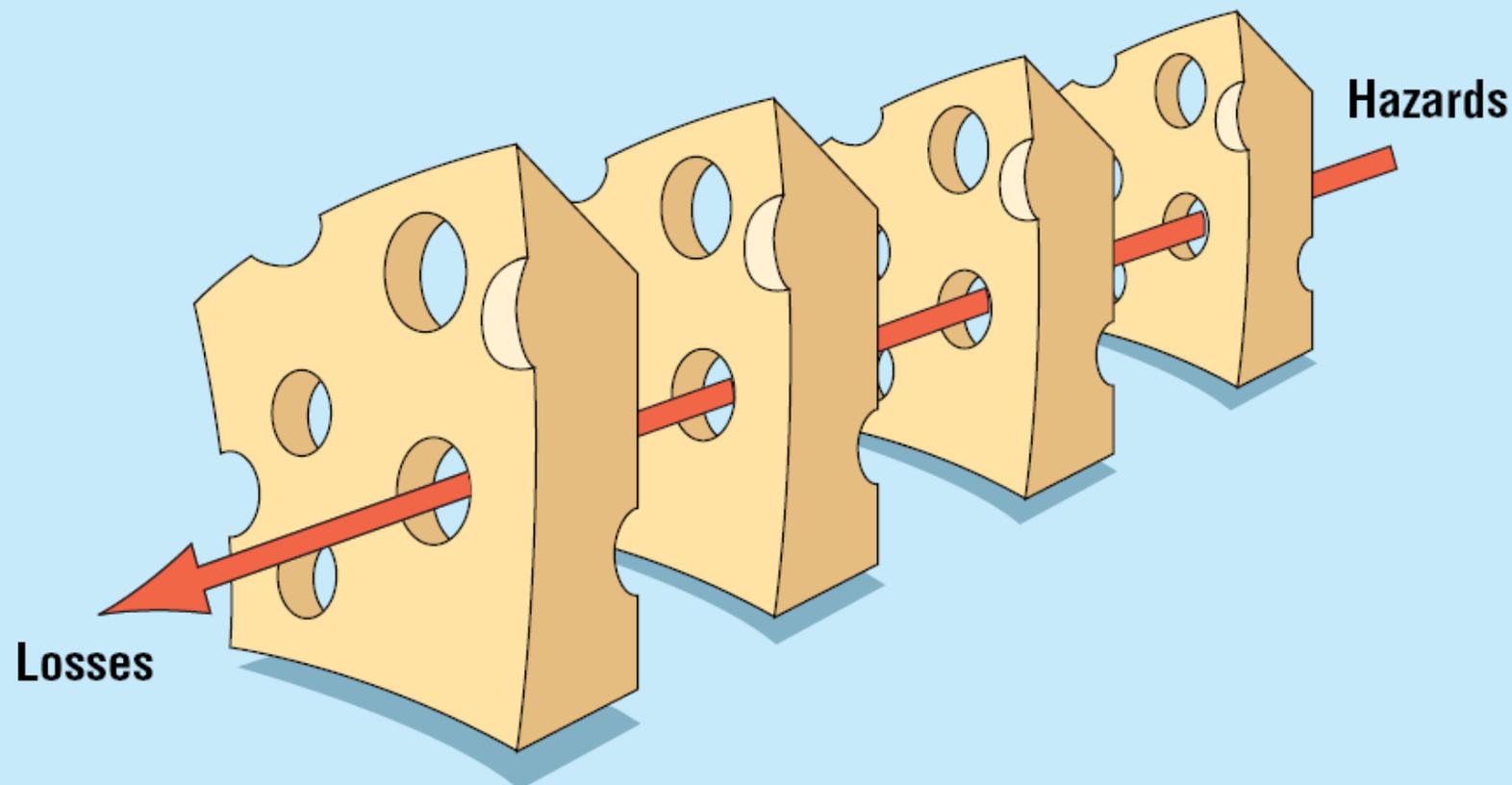
I buchi delle fette rappresentano le **CONDIZIONI LATENTI**



Sono gli inevitabili "**agenti patogeni residenti**" all'interno del sistema. Essi derivano da decisioni prese da progettisti, costruttori, da chi scrive una procedura, e superiori livelli di gestione

Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

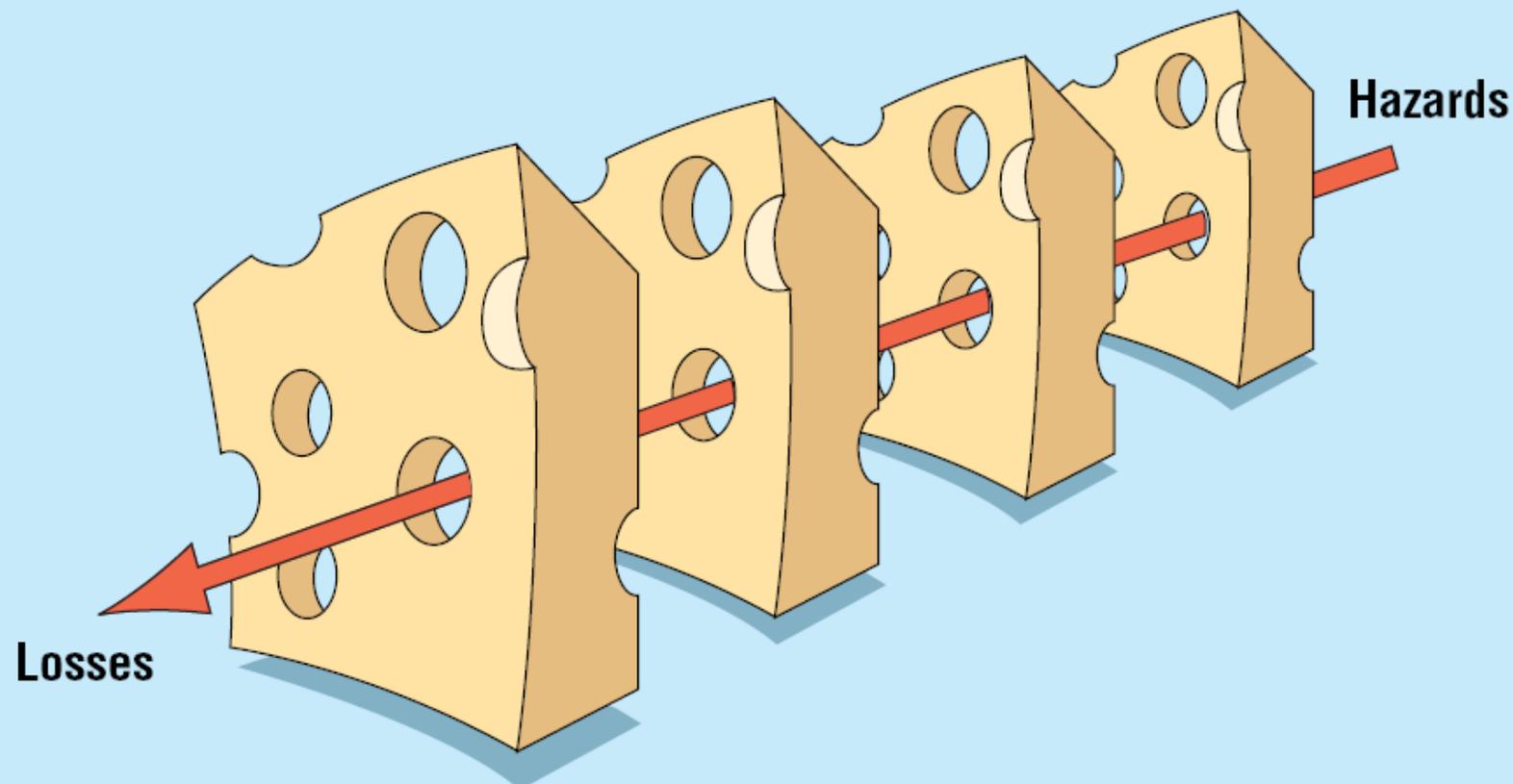
I buchi delle fette rappresentano le **CONDIZIONI LATENTI**



Le condizioni latenti, come suggerisce il termine, possono essere dormienti all'interno del sistema

Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

**I FALLIMENTI ATTIVI** sono gli errori umani



in combinazione con un fallimento attivo e dei locali per creare l'occasione di un incidente.

Approccio individuale

Approccio di sistema

Questo modello fa comprendere  
l'importanza di un atteggiamento  
**proattivo piuttosto che reattivo**  
nella gestione del rischio.

Approccio individuale  
Approccio di sistema

## i fallimenti sono attivi come zanzare

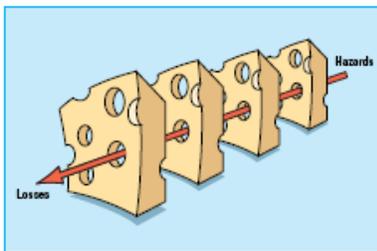


possono essere uccise ad uno ad uno, ma continuerebbero ad esserci.

Il rimedio migliore è creare difese più efficaci e bonificare le paludi in cui vivono.

Le paludi, in questo caso, sono le condizioni latenti presenti.





The Swiss cheese model of how defences, barriers, and safeguards may be penetrated by an accident trajectory

key element of a reporting culture and this, in turn, requires the existence of a just culture—one possessing a collective understanding of where the line should be drawn between blameless and blameworthy actions.<sup>3</sup> Engineering a just culture is an essential early step in creating a safe culture.

Another serious weakness of the person approach is that by focusing on the individual origins of error it isolates unsafe acts from their system context. As a result, two important features of human error tend to be overlooked. Firstly, it is often the best people who make the worst mistakes—error is not the monopoly of an unfortunate few. Secondly, far from being random, mishaps tend to fall into recurrent patterns. The same set of circumstances can provoke similar errors, regardless of the people involved. The pursuit of greater safety is seriously impeded by an approach that does not seek out and remove the error provoking properties within the system at large.

#### The Swiss cheese model of system accidents

Defences, barriers, and safeguards occupy a key position in the system approach. High technology systems have many defensive layers: some are engineered (alarms, physical barriers, automatic shutdowns, etc), others rely on people (surgeons, anaesthetists, pilots, control room operators, etc), and yet others depend on procedures and administrative controls. Their function is to protect potential victims and assets from local hazards. Mostly they do this very effectively, but there are always weaknesses.

In an ideal world each defensive layer would be intact. In reality, however, they are more like slices of Swiss cheese, having many holes—though unlike in the cheese, these holes are continually opening, shutting, and shifting their location. The presence of holes in any one “slice” does not normally cause a bad outcome. Usually, this can happen only when the holes in many layers momentarily line up to permit a trajectory of accident opportunity—bringing hazards into damaging contact with victims (figure).

The holes in the defences arise for two reasons: active failures and latent conditions. Nearly all adverse events involve a combination of these two sets of factors.

*Active failures* are the unsafe acts committed by people who are in direct contact with the patient or system. They take a variety of forms: slips, lapses, fumbles, mistakes, and procedural violations.<sup>6</sup> Active

failures have a direct and usually shortlived impact on the integrity of the defences. At Chernobyl, for example, the operators wrongly violated plant procedures and switched off successive safety systems, thus creating the immediate trigger for the catastrophic explosion in the core. Followers of the person approach often look no further for the causes of an adverse event once they have identified these proximal unsafe acts. But, as discussed below, virtually all such acts have a causal history that extends back in time and up through the levels of the system.

*Latent conditions* are the inevitable “resident pathogens” within the system. They arise from decisions made by designers, builders, procedure writers, and top level management. Such decisions may be mistaken, but they need not be. All such strategic decisions have the potential for introducing pathogens into the system. Latent conditions have two kinds of adverse effect: they can translate into error provoking conditions within the local workplace (for example, time pressure, understaffing, inadequate equipment, fatigue, and inexperience) and they can create longlasting holes or weaknesses in the defences (untrustworthy alarms and indicators, unworkable procedures, design and construction deficiencies, etc). Latent conditions—as the term suggests—may lie dormant within the system for many years before they combine with active failures and local triggers to create an accident opportunity. Unlike active failures, whose specific forms are often hard to foresee, latent conditions can be identified and remedied before an adverse event occurs. Understanding this leads to proactive rather than reactive risk management.

■ *We cannot change the human condition, but we can change the conditions under which humans work*

To use another analogy: active failures are like mosquitoes. They can be swatted one by one, but they still keep coming. The best remedies are to create more effective defences and to drain the swamps in which they breed. The swamps, in this case, are the ever present latent conditions.

#### Error management

Over the past decade researchers into human factors have been increasingly concerned with developing the tools for managing unsafe acts. Error management has two components: limiting the incidence of dangerous errors and—since this will never be wholly effective—creating systems that are better able to tolerate the occurrence of errors and contain their damaging effects. Whereas followers of the person approach direct most of their management resources at trying to make individuals less fallible or wayward, adherents of the system approach strive for a comprehensive management programme aimed at several different targets: the person, the team, the task, the workplace, and the institution as a whole.<sup>3</sup>

High reliability organisations—systems operating in hazardous conditions that have fewer than their fair share of adverse events—offer important models for what constitutes a resilient system. Such a system has

*We cannot change the human condition,  
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