

# The CHP Corner, March 2021

For CHPs, aspiring CHPs, and anyone else on the bell curve.



## The American Academy of Health Physics

Address contributions to:

Editor – Dan Sowers, CHP

Associate Editor – Michael Zittle, MHP, CHP

Email: [dsowers430@gmail.com](mailto:dsowers430@gmail.com)

Email: [mzittle@uw.edu](mailto:mzittle@uw.edu)



### GET CONNECTED, STAY VISIBLE

*Scott Schwahn, AAHP President*

Dear Colleagues,

I have just one subject in this edition of the CHP Corner... get connected, stay visible. The more visible we are, the better for everyone. We want the world to know that they can come to us for advice, direction, and yes - for work! And as much as many of us tend to be introverts, we need to connect, especially as we're still trudging through the pandemic. So, first, I'm asking you to connect. Go to our [Facebook](#) page and/or our [LinkedIn](#) page, and follow them. If you're a CHP, you can also request to join the [CHP LinkedIn page](#) for conversation with other CHPs.

Regarding visibility, check out [the video](#) produced by your 2020 Title Protection/Professional Recognition Committee! I include it in my signature block as a clickable image, and encourage you to do it also for the benefit of us all. I've copied my signature block as an image in this CHP Corner; there are various resources available online to show you how to do it, as it varies by email type.

Scott O. Schwahn, Ph.D., CHP, FHPS  
President, American Academy of Health Physics  
<https://www.aahp-abhp.org/>  
[LinkedIn](#) [Facebook](#)



I hope to see you all popping up all over the place!

### LEARNING FROM THE PAST

*Dan Sowers, CHP Corner Editor*

Sometimes we learn from events which lead to positive results; sometimes we avoid learning lessons the hard way by studying the history of things gone wrong. I've been reading a plethora of accident books lately and wanted to toss a couple recommendations to the audience. *Atomic Accidents* by J Mahaffey provides an overview of – you guessed it – reactor accidents which occurred since us humans figured out we can split atoms to release energy. Mahaffey guides us through early military and government accidents all the way to Fukushima. He walks a fine line, presenting historical facts in a non-biased way to let the reader choose if nuclear power is truly as scary as some think, or perhaps it is labeled with a worse reputation than it deserves.

JS Walker's *Three Mile Island* provides the reader an historical perspective of the birth of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (with subsequent growing pains) as well as pro- and anti-nuclear sentiment in the 1960s and 70s. Walker's well-researched narrative dives deep into the accident including regulation, reactor engineering, communication with federal and state agencies, communication with citizens, and the overall confusion caused by this accident. TMI is commonly recalled as an event up there with the Exxon Valdez and space shuttle Challenger disasters - but is this truly an appropriate comparison? Walker puts this evaluation very nicely into perspective and bounds the event (in my opinion) appropriately, often referring back to the "defense in depth" approach to engineering a reactor and supporting systems. He concludes in much the same way as Mahaffey, letting the reader form opinions based on the facts in the book.

Happy reading!