Critical Operating Parameters (COPs): *Not Your Local Police*

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ABSTRACT

The presentation will provide an overview of Critical Operating Parameters (COPs) that are key in preventing process safety incidents.

COPs are situations in production facilities where a process parameter (pressure, temperature, level, etc.) could get outside the operating envelope and result in a significant loss of containment that could have serious consequences. In addition, to be a COP, the situation must have no automatic protective system, and manual intervention by an Operator would be the final control to prevent a serious incident.

ExxonMobil has developed a COP Management process that covers COP identification, interim mitigations, stewardship/management of COPs, and elimination of COPs through engineering controls such as automatic shutdowns.

The presentation will cover background, definition, actual examples, and the overall COP Management process.