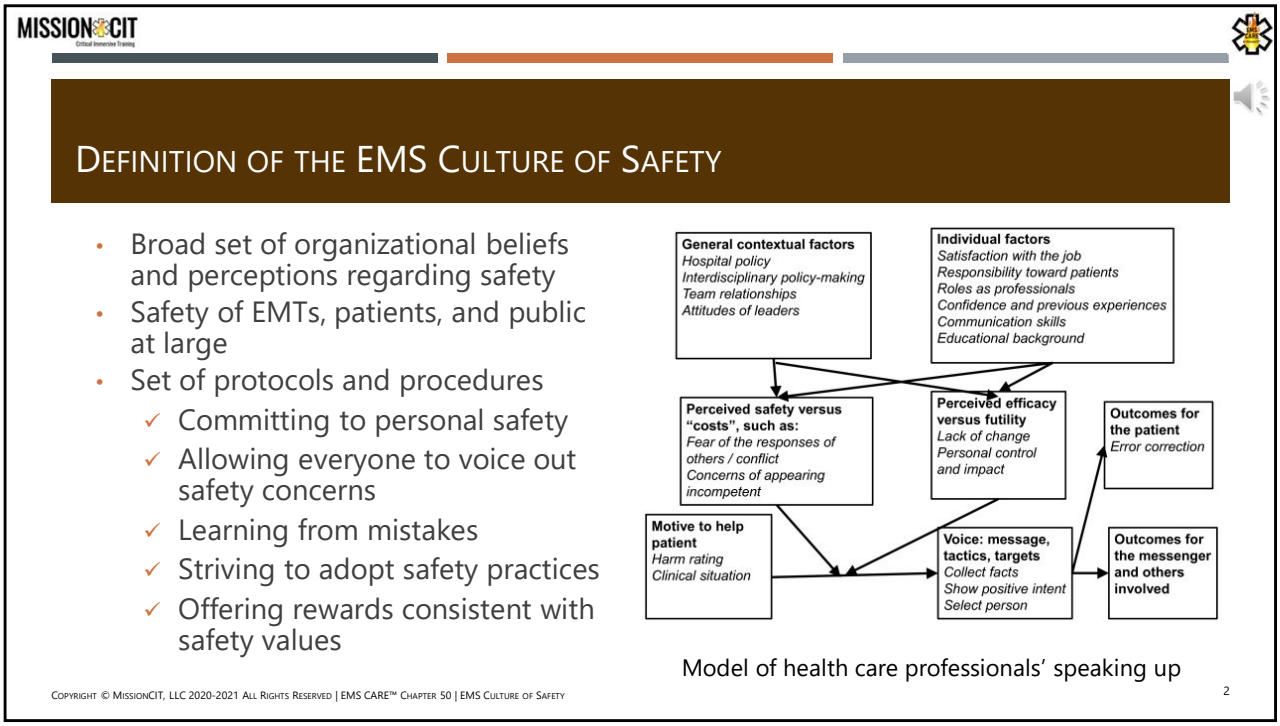


Thank you, Missah!

Welcome to this lesson where we will understand what EMS Culture of Safety is and why it is important today. We will also see the factors that affect the speaking-up behavior of health care professionals and and what their categories are.

So, let's get started.



The EMS Culture of Safety refers to the broad set of organizational beliefs and perceptions regarding safety and the policies and rules based on it. Here safety includes not just patients' safety, but also that of the EMTs and the public.

In other words, an EMS Culture of Safety is a set of protocols and procedures that will make the EMS profession safe for everyone by:

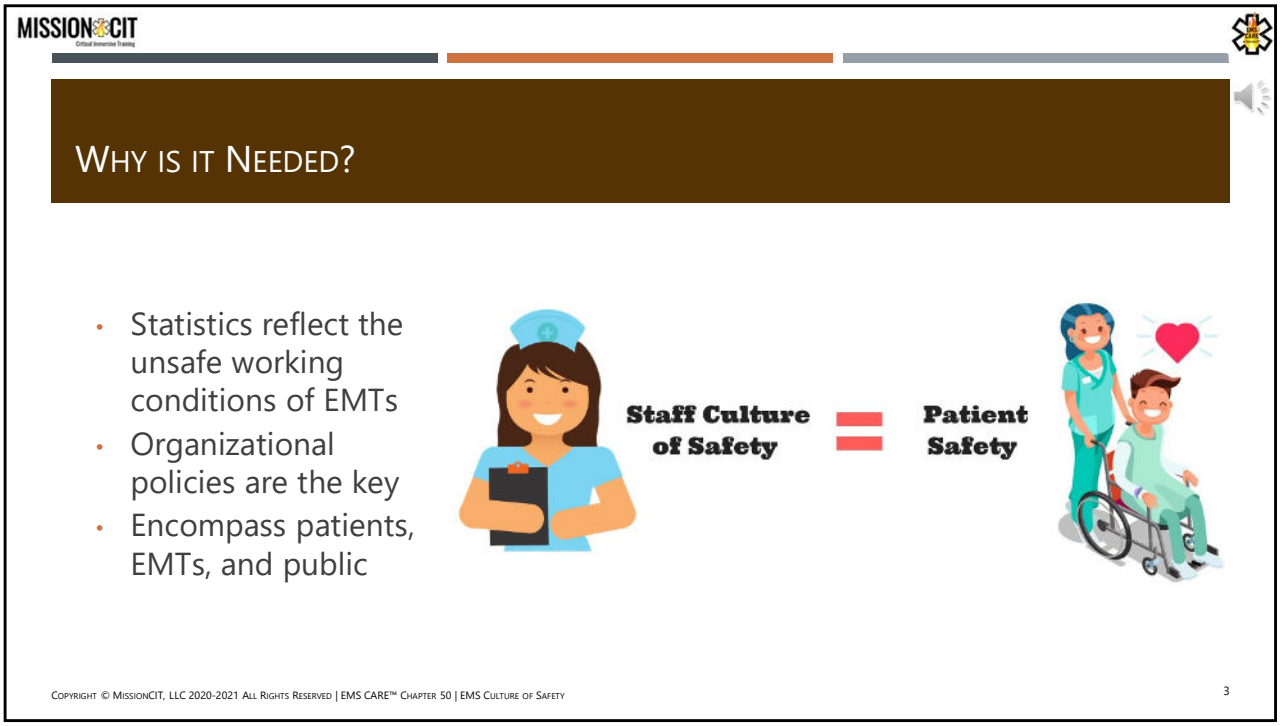
- Committing to personal safety

- Allowing everyone to voice out safety concerns
- Learning from mistakes
- Striving to actively adopt the successful implementation of safety precautions by EMS organizations around the world
- Offering rewards that are consistent with the changing safety values and concerns

Studies show that many factors can affect the speaking-up behavior of health care professionals. These influencing factors could be assigned to the following categories:

- Motivation and clinical context
- General contextual factors
- Individual factors
- The perceived safety of speaking up, and
- The perceived efficacy of speaking up

Given here is a Model of health care professionals' speaking up. The text in bold shows the framework of Morrison's model of employee voice. And the text in italic shows identified speaking-up factors.



Let's take a look at some statistics to get an idea of why this is important.

- The occupational fatality rate is 12.7 per 100,000 per year
- Non-fatal injuries are 34.6 per 100 EMS workers
- 8.5% of patients exhibit some form of violence
- 4000 EMS workers are exposed to harmful substances each year
- 2,200 EMS workers slip and fall each year

The statistics can go on, but these numbers sure give you an idea of the need for safety through organizational policies and procedures that ensure uniform application. These policies encompass the safety of the EMS workers, patients, and the public at large.



The COVID-19 pandemic unveiled the vast challenges and risks health workers are facing globally. Working in stressful environments makes health workers more prone to errors which can lead to patient harm. Health worker safety is a priority for patient safety. It's time we speak up for our safety!