

Meaningless Details

Passion for details becomes life, and meaning is found through meaningless things. At times, it is easy to miss the bigger picture. Time is spent wasted on “more important” things that seem to fit one’s personal opinion. In the case concerning the bombing at Port Fourchon, energy is spent wasted on possible terrorist threats, or the possibility of underground groups being behind the initial attack. The safety checklist is the underdog of the situation. It holds the maintenance records and the information about things that happen behind the scenes. It is easily overlooked or dismissed because it seems to have a lack of relevance regarding the bombing. It is mundane and seemingly insignificant. Due to time restraints, looking for the culprit of the crime is put at the top of the list. Also, since it is a successful company that suffered, it is almost expected that safety or maintenance problems would not even be an issue. Finally, because of the diverse natures of the two events that occurred, it would seem almost impossible that the two situations are connected.

Not only can the checklist be neglected, it also can be widely misinterpreted. For what can seem like a harmless thing, can turn into something quite harmful. For example, in this case, the safety checklist has a stereotype of being routine and boring. Considering its role in the case being insignificant, it is easy for it to be overlooked. It shows how little details that are glanced over can lead to serious consequences. The safety checklist was not read and checked in its entirety, leading to maintenance failures and to the explosion. Little details can paint a bigger picture that could completely rewrite the entire story. Even though the explosion was caused by mechanical issues, it was because of things in the checklist that were not accounted for, that the event even took place. It is because of the information in the safety file being misinterpreted that the case was not understood in its entirety.

Perception and reality can be two different things. One can be based on opinion, and the other based on hard facts. However, sometimes the two can become linked. Information that seems to be unconnected, eventually turns out to be the only piece of the puzzle that actually fits. Facts and figures that never fit in the story before, become the only thing that makes sense. Anything can have meaning, even the most boring of things. This case is a true example of the insignificant becoming the important. Small, harmless details paint a bigger picture on how important it is to pay attention to things that may seem irrelevant. What seems to be pointless, can also turn out to be life-altering. It is vital to be patient, and to take the time it takes to do the job correctly. The safety checklist is an example of how something that seems completely random, turns out to be the most relevant piece of the whole case. Life is not always what it seems; interpretations are limitless.