

STRUCTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT – SEHM²

**Development of a comprehensive framework for
technological scenarios triggered by natural events (Natech)
assessment in the chemical and process industries**

Summary of yearly activities (a.y. 2018/19)

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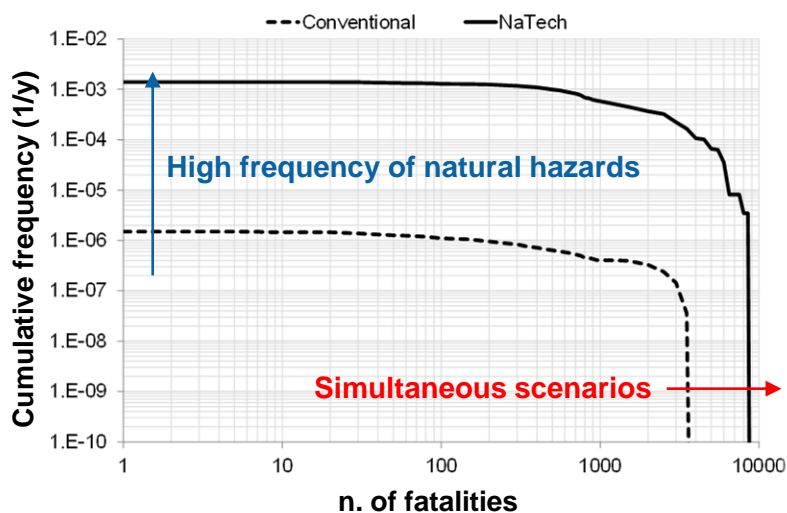
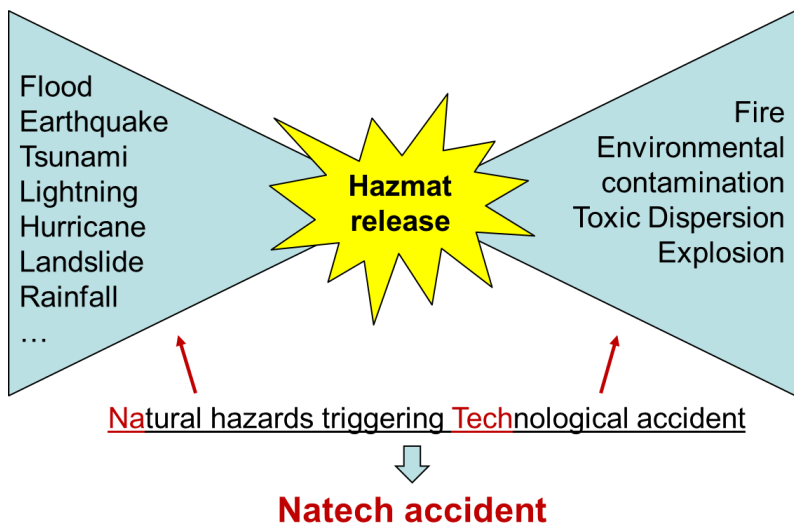
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Introduction: Natech accidents



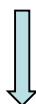
Natech features go beyond “conventional” technological accidents

- Multiplicity of simultaneous failures
- Cascading scenarios: elevated possibility of domino escalation
- Natural hazards may impact safety systems, utilities and lifelines
- Compound disasters: Emergency intervention may be hampered

Gap analysis: safety barriers and domino effect

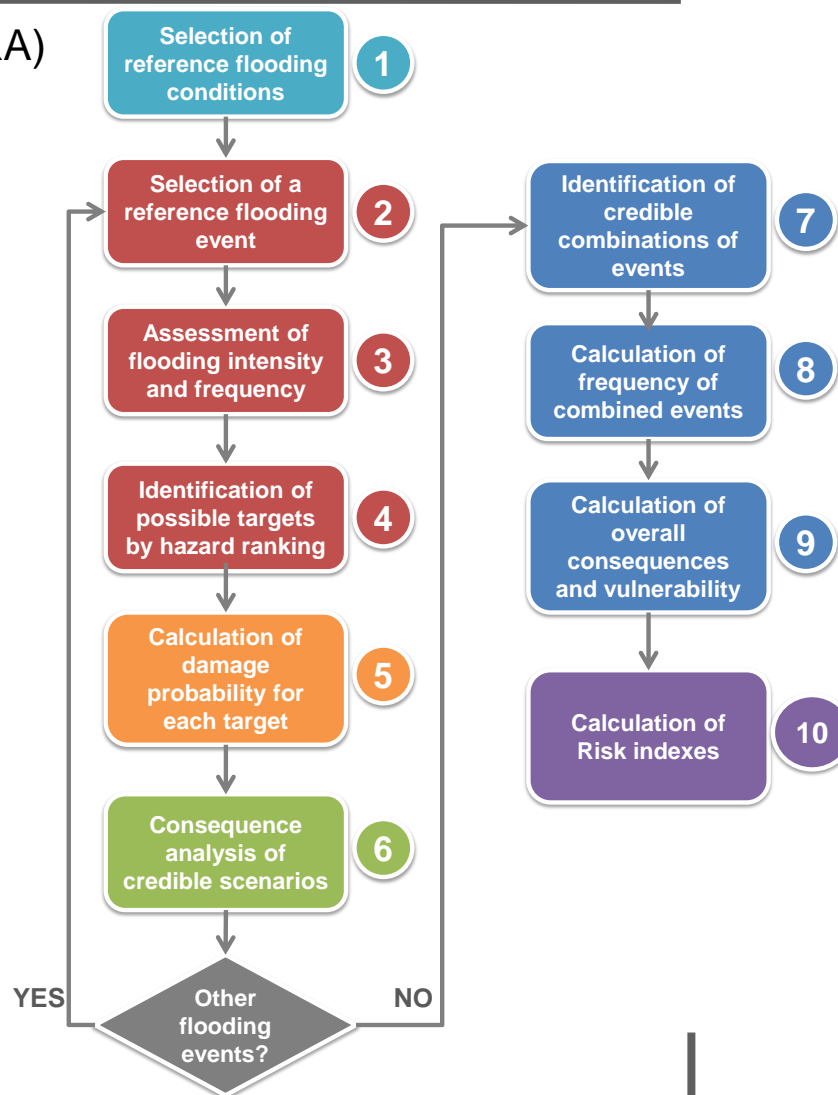
Example: **Flood** Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA)

- ❑ QRA methodology for Natech accidents caused by floods (*Antonioni et al., 2015*).
- ❑ Vulnerability models for main equipment categories (*Landucci et al., 2012, 2014*)
- ❑ Similarity with domino effects, methodology for frequency of combined events (*Cozzani et al., 2014*)

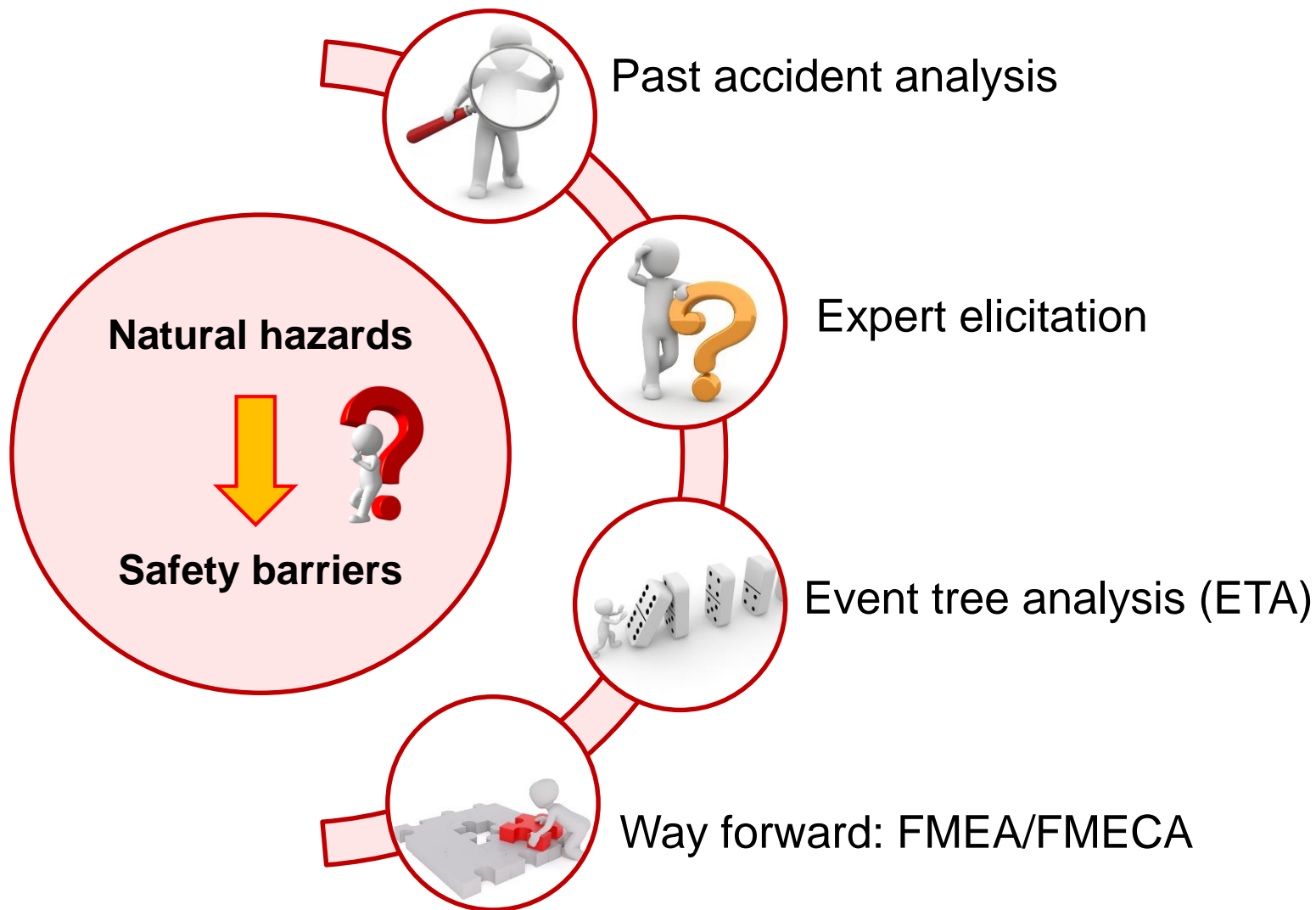


What is still missing?

- ❑ Safety barriers?
- ❑ Domino propagation?
- ❑ Utility systems?
- ❑ ...



Natural hazards and safety barriers





Past accident analysis

Hurricane Harvey (Texas, 2017)

- About 100 chemical releases. **Power outage** was experienced in many cases. **Massive release from shutdown and emergency flaring.** (*Misuri et al., 2019a*)
- Arkema peroxide plant was flooded. **Power outage** interrupted the refrigeration units. **Inert gas system not available. Backup generators submerged.** Violent explosions. **Emergency intervention was hindered by floodwater.** (*CSB, 2018*)

Vltava River Flood (Czech Republic, 2002)

- Electrolysis plant was flooded. **Emergency retention sumps were flooded.** 80000t of chlorine were released in air and water. (*eMars*)

Koaceli Earthquake (Turkey, 1999)

- Multiple fires and chemical spills. **Power outage: firefighting water was not available in many sites. Foam-water systems for vapor suppression were not available. Containment dikes were damaged.** (*Steinberg, Cruz, 2004*)

San Jacinto River Flood (Texas, 1994)

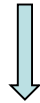
- During flooding, 8 hydrocarbon pipelines ruptured, releasing LPG, gasoline, crude oil, diesel fuel and natural gas. Fire developed in multiple areas. **Manual interruption valves were submerged. Operator intervention hampered.** (*NTSB, 1996*)

Expert elicitation



Expert elicitation (*Misuri et al., 2020*):

- ❑ More than 40 experts involved
- ❑ Natural hazards: **Floods** and **Earthquakes**
- ❑ 16 safety barriers considered



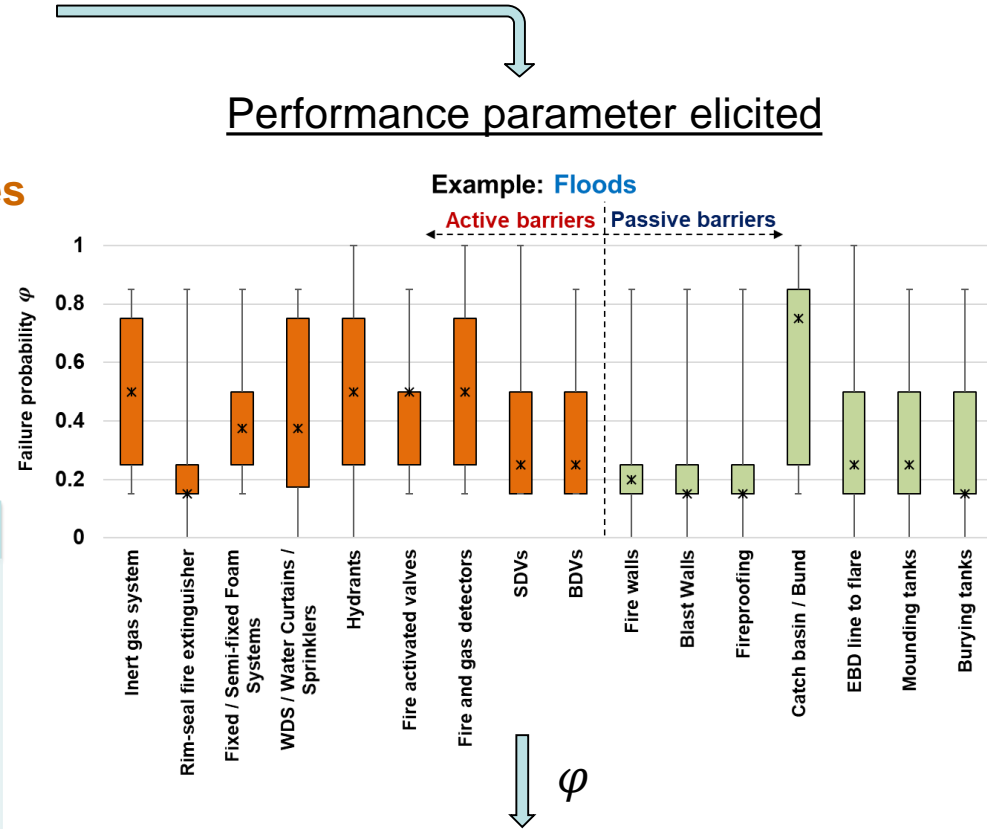
Vulnerable systems highlighted

Floods

- Blanketing systems
- Fixed/semi-fixed foam systems
- WDS/water curtains/sprinklers
- Hydrants
- Fire and gas detectors
- Catch basins and bunds

Earthquakes

- Blanketing systems
- Rim-seal fire extinguishers
- Fixed/semi-fixed foam systems
- WDS/water curtains/sprinklers
- Hydrants
- Fire and gas detectors
- SDVs
- Fire walls
- Blast walls
- Catch basins and bunds
- EBD line to flare



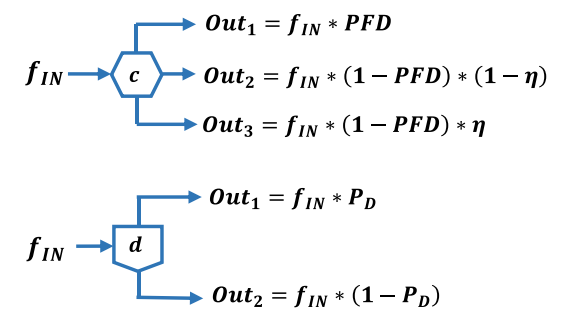
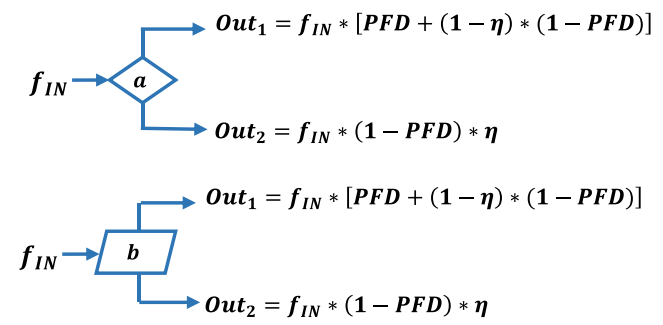
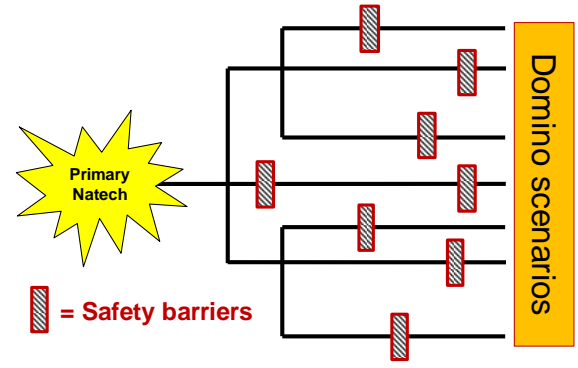
Barrier performance during natural hazards

- ❑ Active: $PFD = 1 + (\varphi - 1)(1 - PFD_0)$, $\eta = \eta_0$
- ❑ Passive: $\eta = (1 - \varphi)\eta_0$

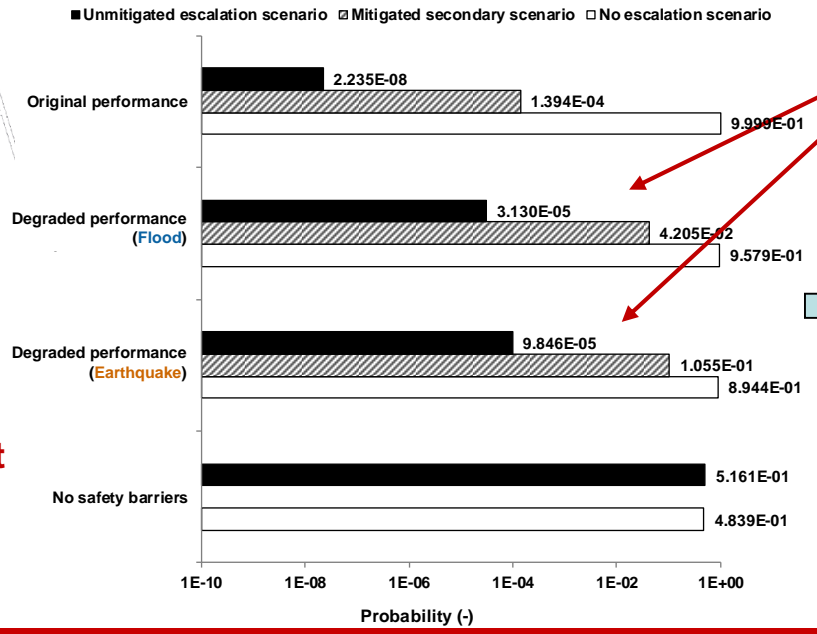
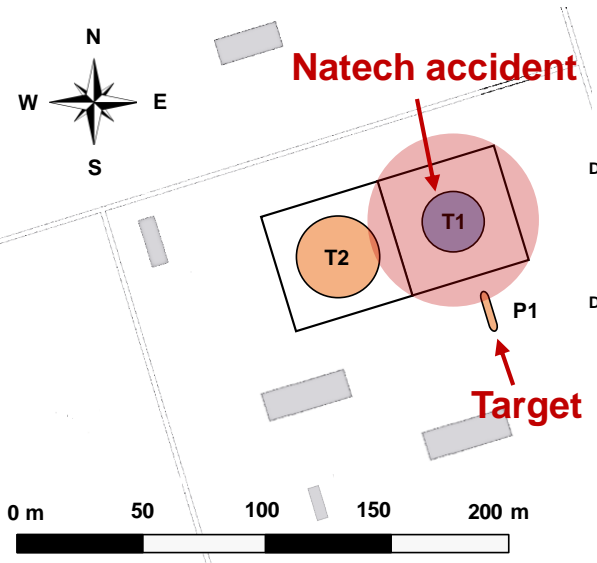


Event tree analysis (ETA)

Gate metrics for ETA of domino escalation (*Landucci et al., 2015; Misuri et al., 2019c*)



Example of application: Domino escalation from Natech involving T1



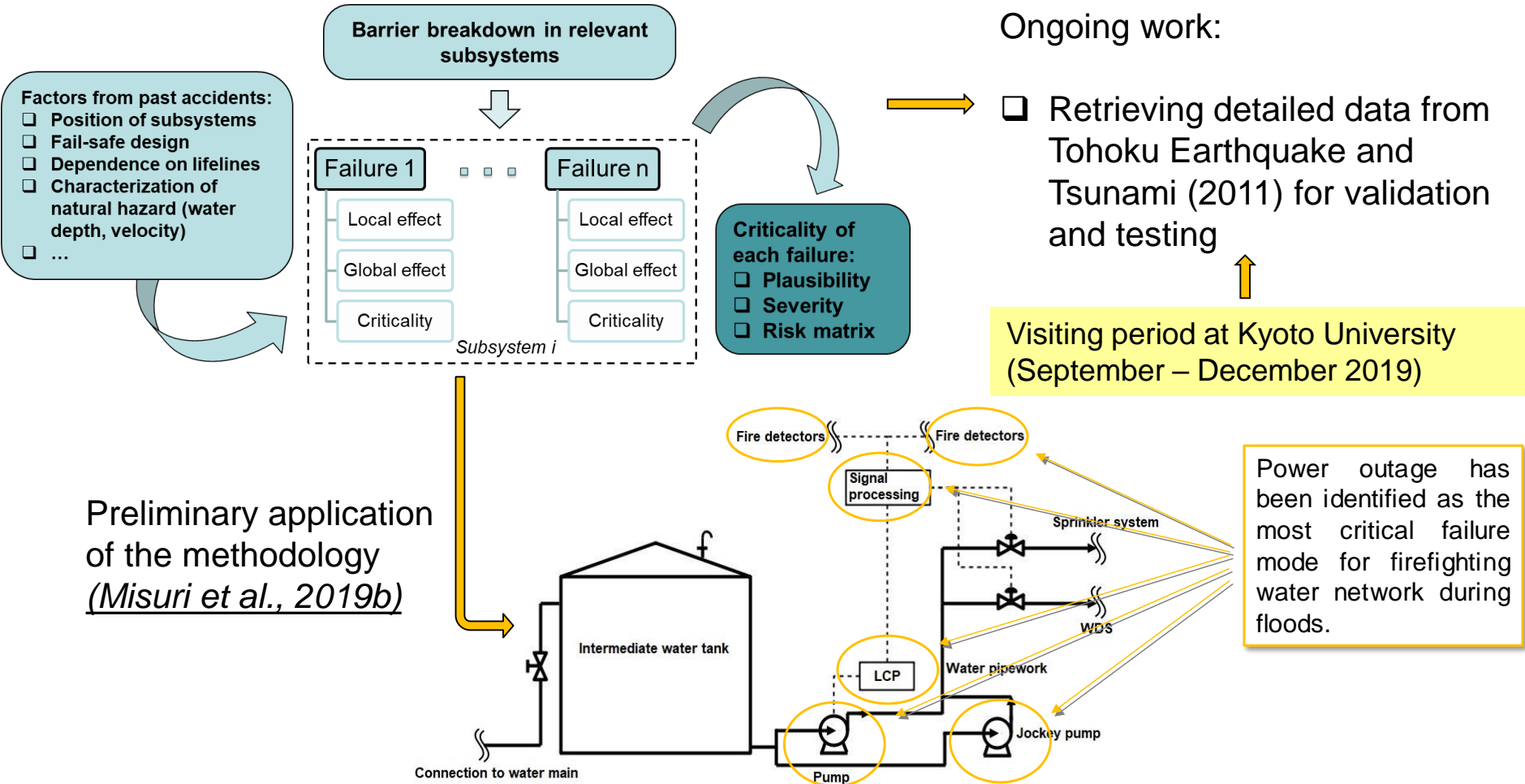
Likelihood of domino scenarios is significantly higher

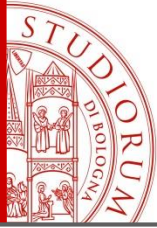
Way forward: implementation in complete Natech QRA



Way forward: FMEA/FMECA

- ❑ Systematic method to identify the ways in which an item might potentially fail, and the effects of the mode of failure (EN IEC 60812:2018)





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