

Isadore "Irv" Rosenthal

Isadore Rosenthal is a former board member of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board and current senior research fellow at the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center.

Prior to joining Wharton, Dr. Rosenthal was employed at Rohm and Haas for 38 years in a variety of research, business unit and staff positions and was Corporate Director of Health, Safety, Environment and Product Integrity at the time of his retirement from the company in 1990.

Upon his retirement, Dr. Rosenthal joined the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center to conduct research on low-probability, high-consequence chemical process accidents. He also taught a course in the Wharton MBA program on "The Environment and the Firm" and consulted for a number of companies and organizations.

In 1998, President William J. Clinton nominated and the Senate confirmed Dr. Rosenthal to serve a five-year term on the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazards Investigation Board. At the expiration of his term as a board member, Dr. Rosenthal returned to the Wharton Risk Center as a senior research fellow. Dr. Rosenthal's research focuses on design safety and health management systems that can prevent catastrophic accidents. He has published numerous papers on this subject.

Dr. Rosenthal formerly served on the advisory committee of the USW Tony Mazzocchi Health and Safety Center and the OSHA Reactive Alliance. He previously served as the official U.S. industry delegate to the ILO Convention that developed the Guidelines for the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents. Dr. Rosenthal has been a member of the Philadelphia Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the OSHA Reform committee of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the Philadelphia Emergency Response Committee, the Technical Advisory Committee of the Environmental Management Division of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the IECD Risk Terminology Project Steering Group, the University of California Presidents Council's Environment, Safety & Health Panel, and the EPA Accident Prevention Subcommittee of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Independent Safety Review Panel headed by James Baker III that published the Report of the British Petroleum (BP) U.S. Refineries Independent Safety Review in 2007.

Dr. Rosenthal holds a B.A. with honors from New York University, an M.S. in physical chemistry from Purdue, and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Pennsylvania State University, where he also held a postdoctoral fellowship.