Pipeline Safety Management Systems

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John Stoody

Association of Oil Pipe Lines

Member | PSMS Development Team

API RP 1173 – Documentation & Record Keeping

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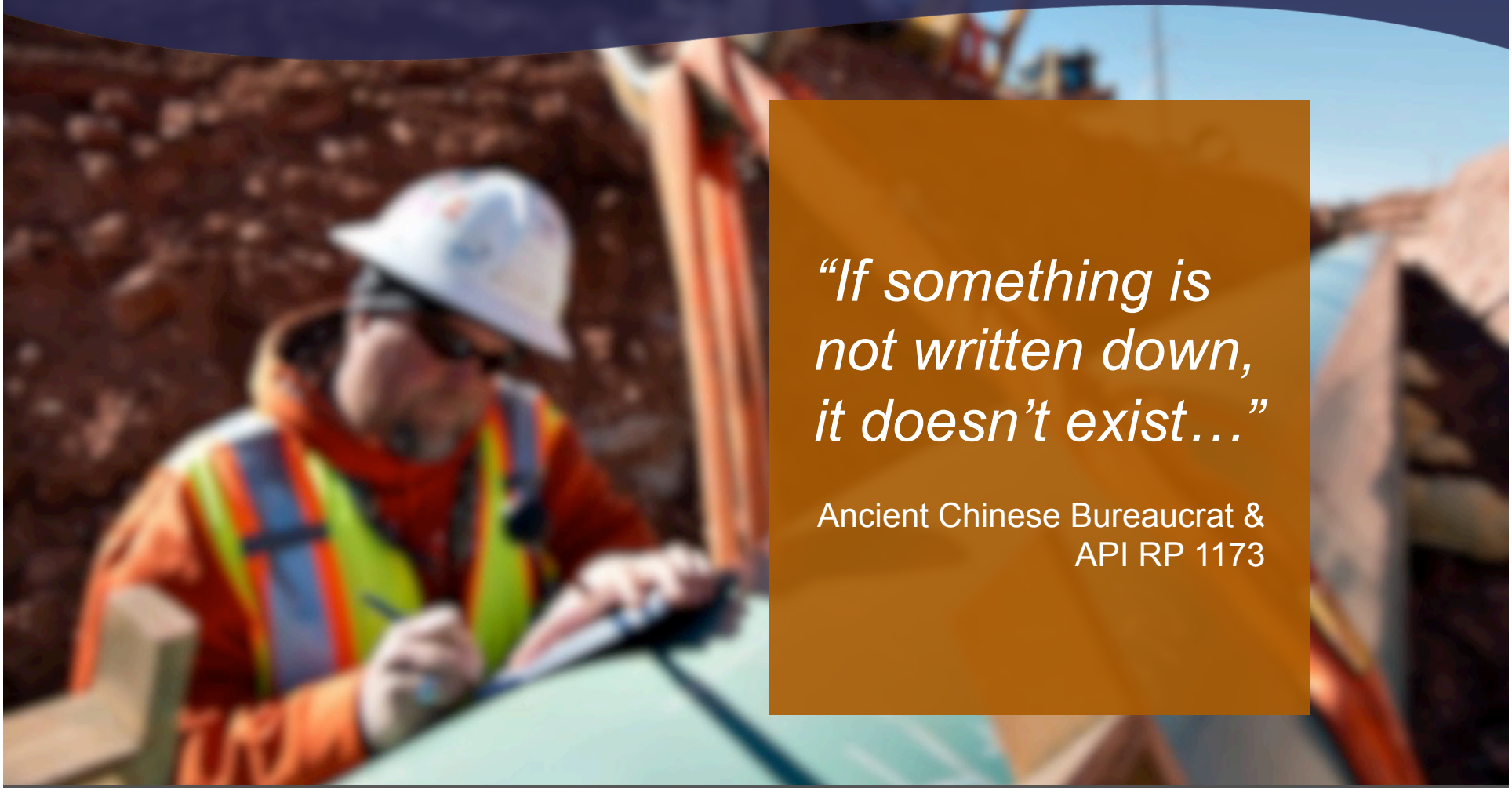

"If something is not written down, it doesn't exist…"

Ancient Chinese Bureaucrat & API RP 1173

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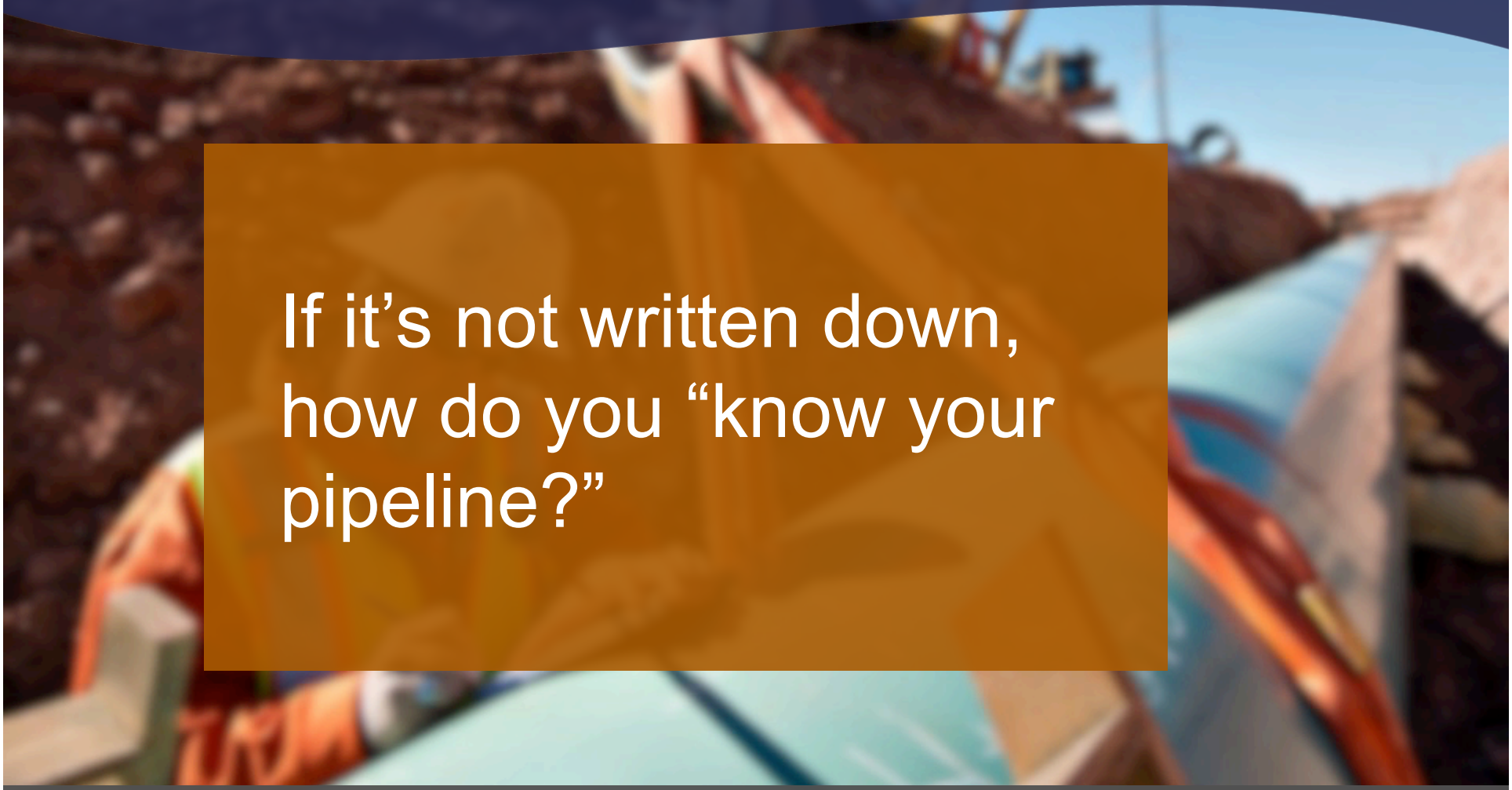

If it's not written down, how do you "know your pipeline?"

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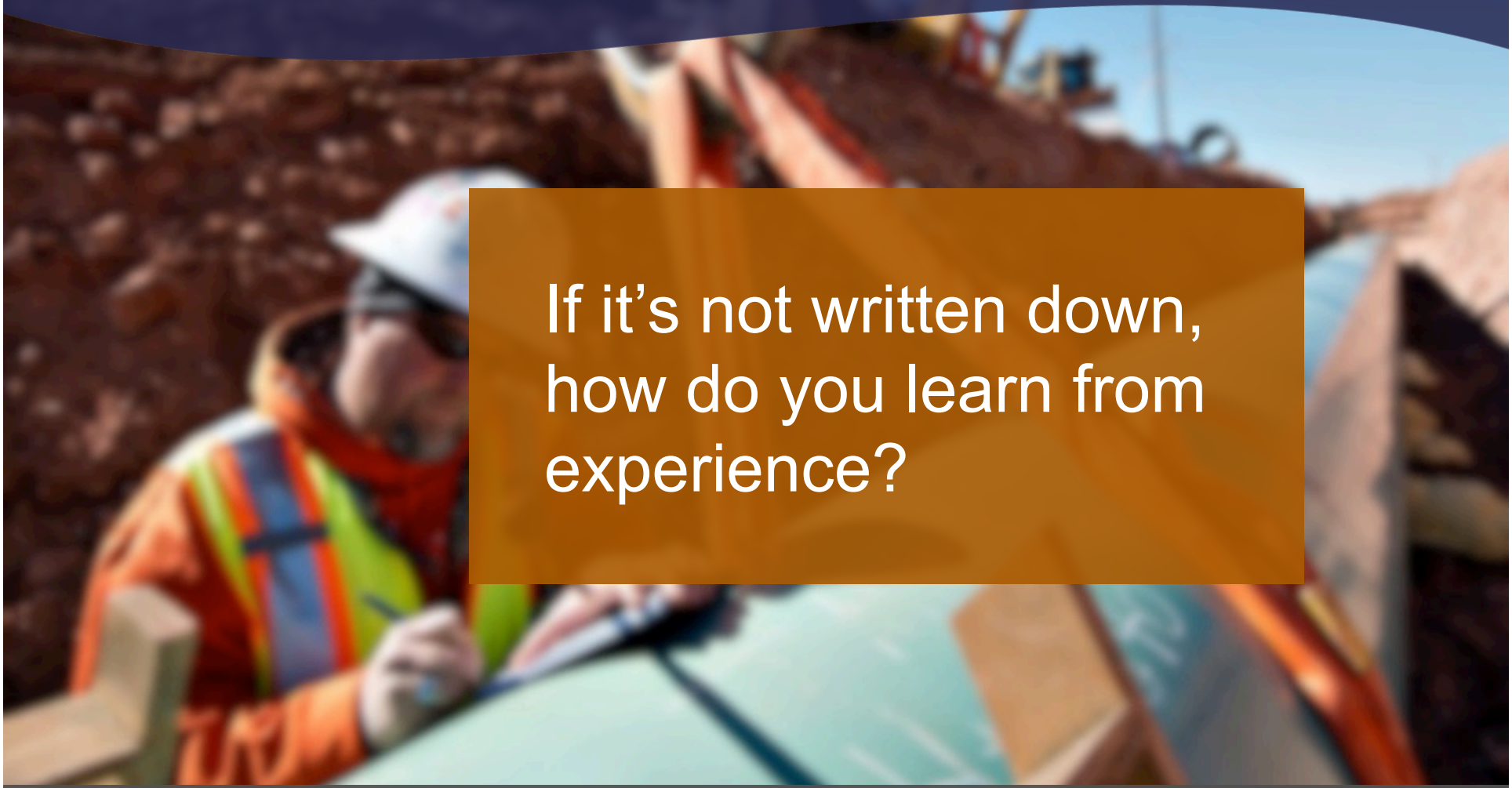

If it's not written down, how do you learn from experience?

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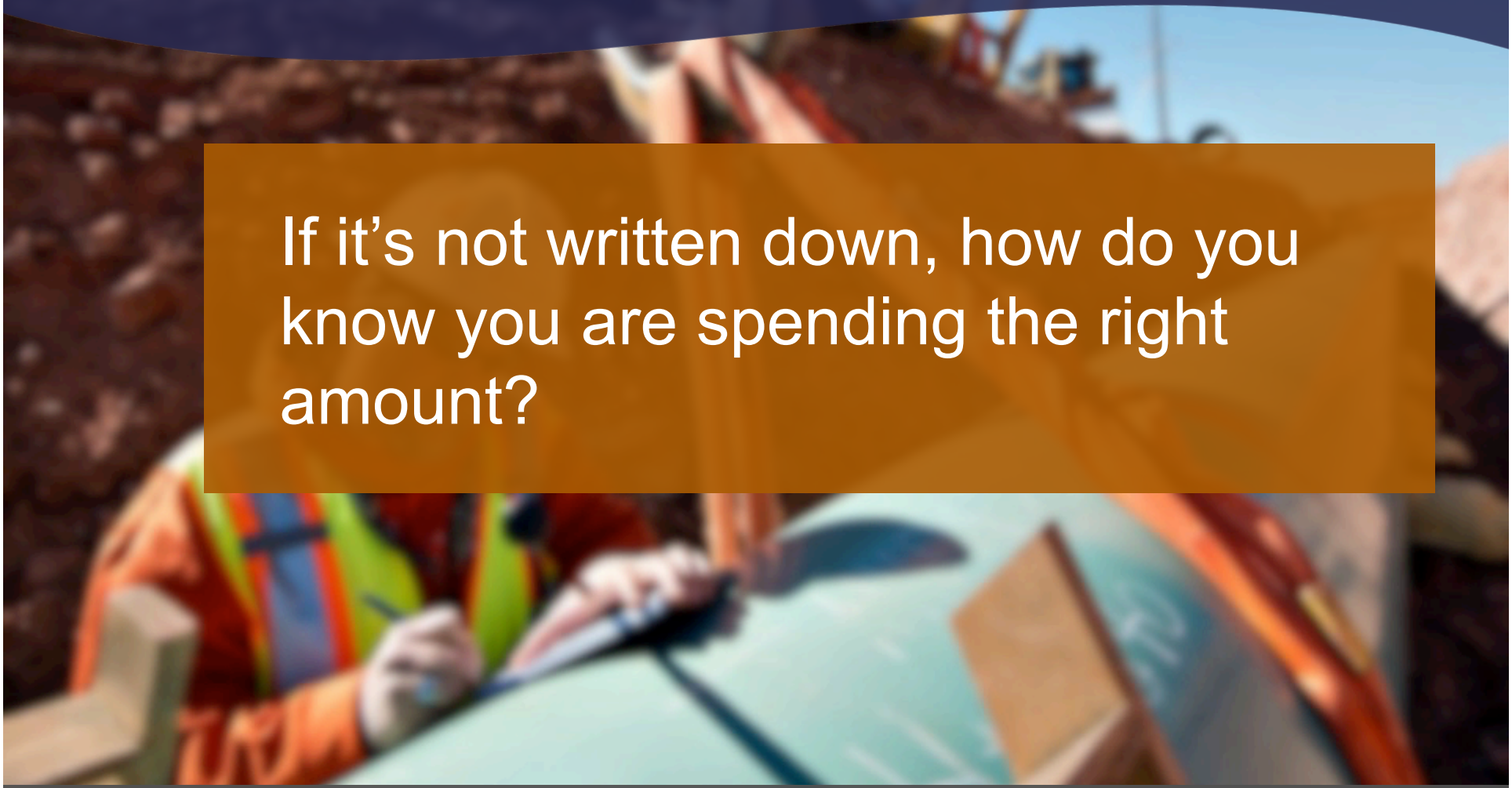

If it's not written down, how do you know you are spending the right amount?

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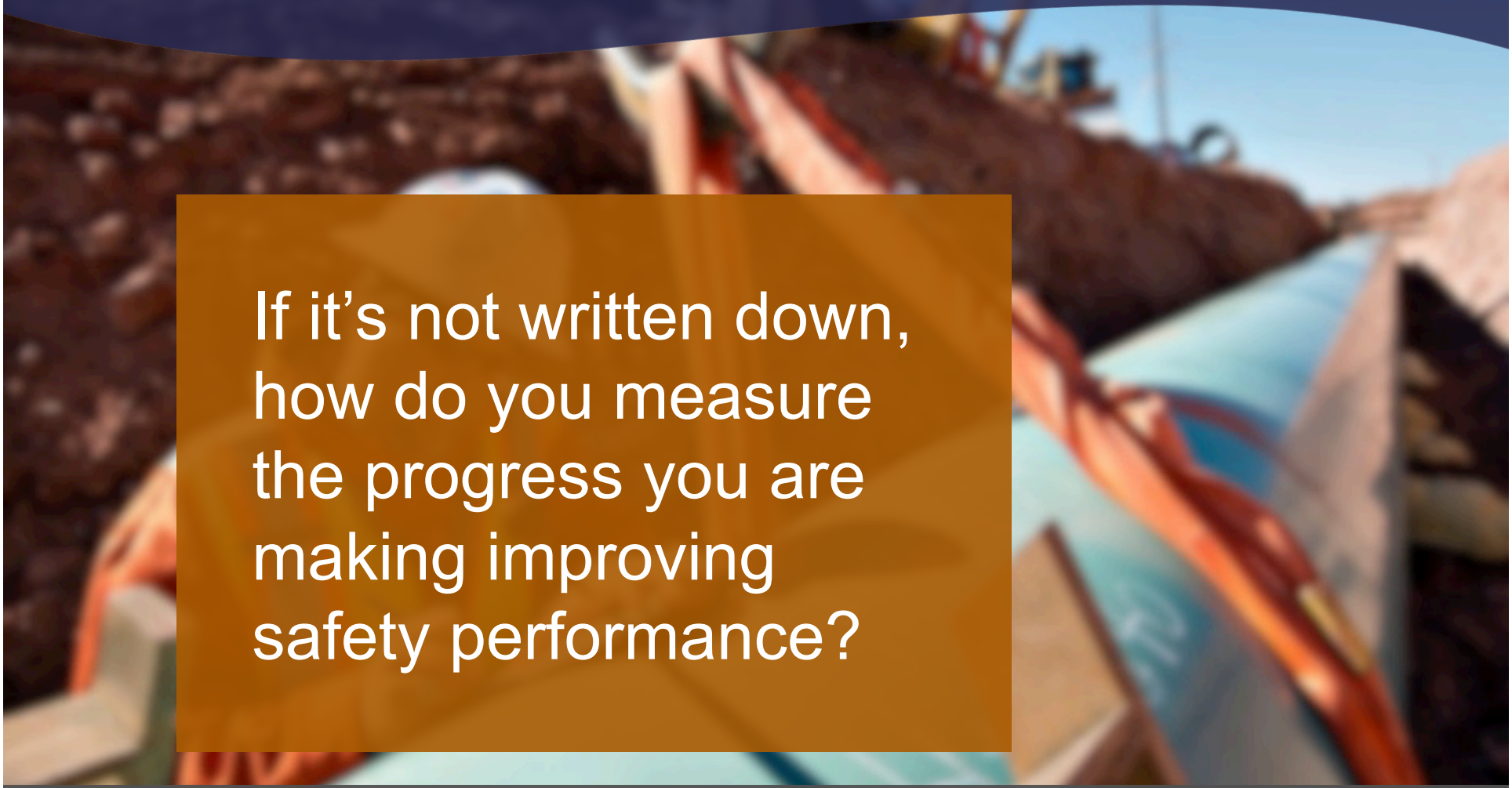

If it's not written down, how do you measure the progress you are making improving safety performance?

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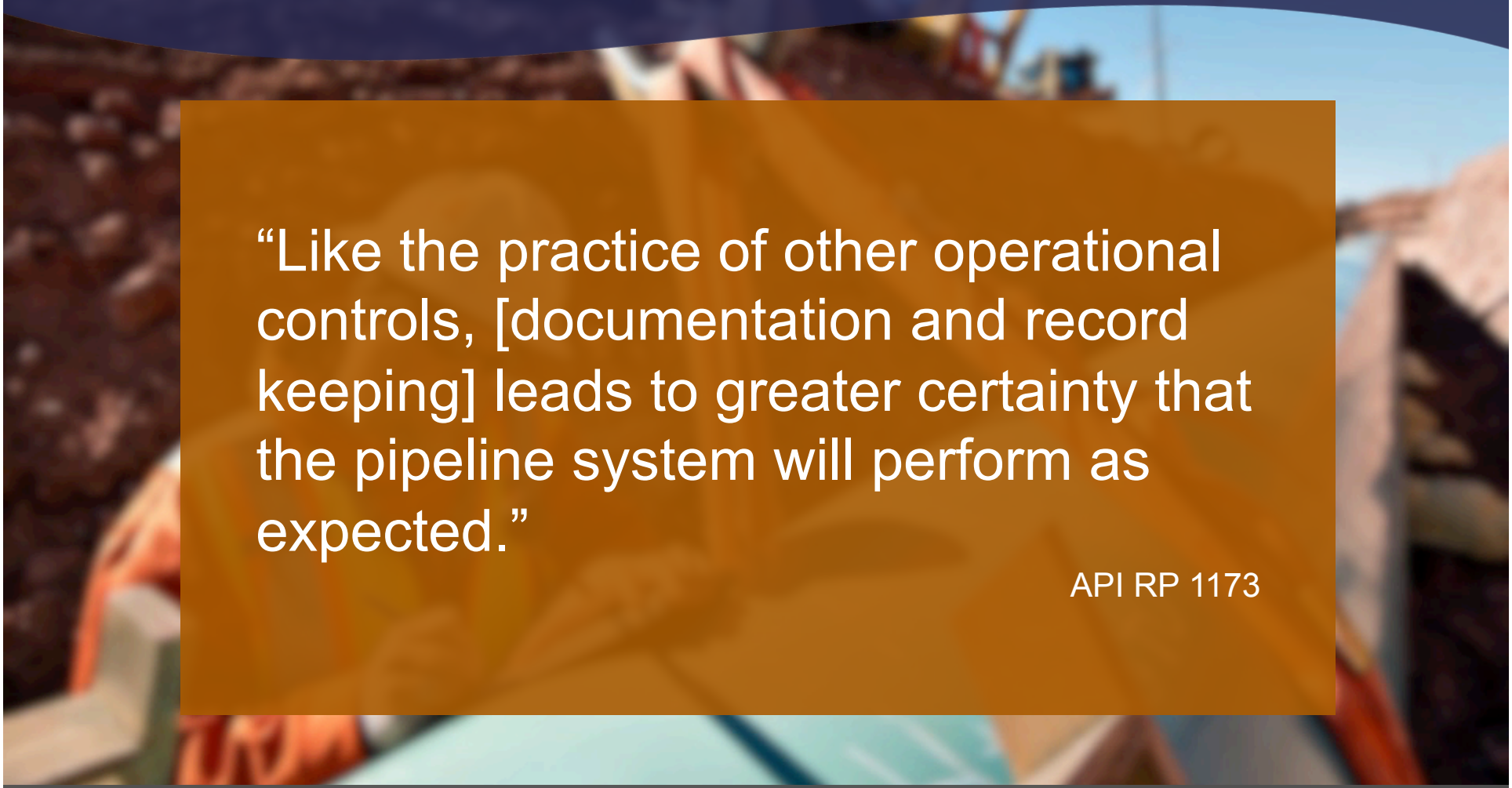

"Like the practice of other operational controls, [documentation and record keeping] leads to greater certainty that the pipeline system will perform as expected."

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14.1 Control of Documents

The Pipeline operator shall maintain a procedure for the identification, distribution, and control of documents required by the PSMS…

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14.2 Control of Records

The pipeline operator shall maintain a procedure to identify the controls and responsibilities needed for the identification, collection, storage, protection, retrieval, retention time, and disposition of records…

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14.3 PSMS Documents [Include:]

a. statements of safety policies & objectives

b. procedures established for the PSMS

c. work required by the PSMS

d. regulatory and other applicable requirements

e. other records needed to show the effective operations of the PSMS

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14.4 Procedures

All procedures referenced within this document shall be established, documented, implemented, and maintained for continued suitability…