

## Joseph Cohen, Ph.D.

5173 Waring Road, Suite 157  
San Diego, CA 92120-2705  
Voice: +1 (619) 464-4427

Email: [joe@erroranalysis.com](mailto:joe@erroranalysis.com)



### PROFILE

Forensic human factors professional retained in matters of personal injury and wrongful death, with 25 years of experience analyzing falls, collisions, and human interaction with the built environment, engineered systems, and environmental conditions. Provides expert services and consulting on human factors, human performance capabilities and limitations (mental and physical), performance shaping factors, hazards and safety, warnings and instructions, and compliance with applicable standards and industry practices.

### ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Practice includes premises liability, traffic crashes, workplace safety, and product safety
- ◆ Testified in multiple jurisdictions including CA, AZ, NV, Intertribal Court, and U.S. District Court
- ◆ Retained by both plaintiff and defense counsel
- ◆ Consultations with legal counsel practicing in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Singapore

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- ◆ Human performance and human performance management
- ◆ Human factors and technology
- ◆ Vehicles, traffic, and pedestrians (including nighttime issues)
- ◆ Slip, trip, and fall analysis
- ◆ Warnings and instructions

### METHODS & TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

- ◆ Inspections and field work
- ◆ Literature reviews and rebuttals
- ◆ Reconstruction support and analysis
- ◆ Documentation of sites and nighttime scenes
- ◆ Walking science and tribometry
- ◆ Standards-based evaluation

### CURRENT POSITION

#### **President & CEO, Error Analysis, Inc. (2017–Present)**

Conducts forensic evaluations of human interaction, consults, and provides scientifically grounded expert opinions and testimony, supported by methods and analysis of premises, traffic, product, and workplace issues. Leads project work. Collaborates with peers. Mentors early-career professionals. Manages staff.

## PAST POSITIONS

### **Senior Consultant (2007-2017) and Associate (1997-2007), Error Analysis, Inc.**

Led projects as a consultant with commercial clients while supporting experts from retention through trial in cases involving loss due to slips, trips, collisions with motor vehicles, drowning, burns, exposures, and other events. Client organizations for project work included the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (under sub-contract), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Consolidated Edison of New York, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Zamboni Company USA, and others.

### **Organizational Development Specialist, City of San Diego, Metro Wastewater Department (2005-2006)**

In part, evaluated the effectiveness of a health and injury management program designed to bring employees back to work safely and in a timely manner. Doctorate degree field placement site.

### **Research Associate, Pacific Science and Engineering Group, Inc., San Diego, CA (2005)**

Supported studies involving human attention, vigilance, and augmented cognition tools to combat negative effects of attention failure in naval air warfare amongst other projects. Doctorate degree field placement site.

### **A.S. Imada and Associates, Carmichael, CA (2001)**

Tested effects of ergonomic enhancements in food service at Dodger Stadium during the MLB season in joint project between the Aramark Corporation and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Master's degree internship.

### **Self-Defense Instructor, Young Olympians, Tustin, CA (1994-1998)**

Instructed children ages 5-15 in martial arts and managed classes and equipment sales in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles counties while both a graduate and undergraduate student.

## EDUCATION

B.A., Psychology, UC Riverside (1997)

M.A., Psychology, Applied-Experimental (Human Factors option), CSU Northridge (2000)

M.S., Industrial-Organizational (I/O) Psychology, Alliant International University (2005)

Ph.D., I/O Psychology, Alliant International University (2009) - *Outstanding Ph.D. award recipient*

## CERTIFICATIONS

CHFP (Certified Human Factors Professional), #1037 since 2002

CHCM (Certified Hazard Control Manager), #2834 since 2000

CXLT (Certified XL Tribometrist) #100661 since 2010

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

-Human Factors Accident Classification System (HFACS) course, Embry-Riddle University (2024)

-Response, Human Factors in Driving and Emergency Situations course, Driver Research Institute (2023)

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Leadership within the human factors and ergonomics community, including the Board of Certification in Professional Ergonomics (BCPE) as President, the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES) Budget and Finance Committee and the Forensic and Safety Technical Groups. Active in ASTM International including Committee F15 (consumer products) and F13 (Pedestrian/Walkway Safety and Footwear) including the Sub-Committee F13.50 on Walkway Surfaces. Former Associate Editor of *Ergonomics in Design*. Peer--reviews for Human Factors and Theoretical Issues in Ergonomics Science (journals).

## ARTICLES, BOOKS AND CHAPTERS, AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Cohen, J., & Cohen, C. (in press). *Warnings and cues for pedestrian safety*. In *Handbook of Warnings* (2nd Edition). Erlbaum.
2. Cohen, J., & Cohen, H. H. (2019). *A truck driver's dilemma*. In Wogalter (Editor), *Forensic Human Factors and Ergonomics: Case Studies and Analyses*. CRC Press.
3. Cohen, J., LaRue, C., & Cohen, H. H. (2017). Attention interrupted: Cognitive distraction and workplace safety. *Professional Safety*, 62(11), 28–34.
4. Cohen, H. H., & Cohen, J. (2016). Fall forensics: Principles and applications. In Hsiao (Editor), *Fall Prevention and Protection*. CRC Press.
5. Nemire, K., Cohen, H. H., & Cohen, J. (Editors). (2014). *HFES Guide to Forensic Human Factors (1987–2012)*, e-book. Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.
6. Resnick, M., & Cohen, J. (2014). Workplace issues in forensic human factors. In *HFES Guide to Forensic Human Factors*. Human Factors and Ergonomics Society.
7. Cohen, J. (2011). The role of forensic organizational ergonomics. *Ergonomics in Design*, 19(1), 29–32.
8. Cohen, J., LaRue, C. A., & Cohen, H. H. (2010). Stairway falls: An ergonomics analysis of 80 cases. *Professional Safety*, 54(1), 27–32.
9. Cohen, H. H., Cohen, J., Wogalter, M. S., & Mendat, C. (2006). Warning channel: Modality and media. In *Handbook of Warnings*. Erlbaum.
10. Cohen, H. H., & Cohen, J. (2004). Employee participation in a hospital hazard management system. *Ergonomics in Design*, 12(3), 31–38.
11. Cohen, J., & Cohen, H. H. (2001). Human factors in stairway fall litigation. *Ergonomics in Design*, 9(3), 19–24.
12. Cohen, C., & Cohen, J. (expected October 2026). Oppositional Simulation as a Method for Expert Witness Skill Acquisition. *Aspire Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Reno NV*.
13. Fortenbaugh, D., Reitzner, A., Andre, A., Frantz, J., & Cohen, J. (2025). From classroom to courtroom: Becoming a forensic human factors and ergonomics expert. *Aspire Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Chicago, IL*.
14. Cohen, J. (2024). Forensic analysis of a traffic crash involving human factors in design and management of an industrial facility. *Aspire Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Phoenix, AZ*.
15. Cohen, J. (2023). A forensic case study of a vehicle backing mishap. Poster. *Annual International Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Washington, D.C.*
16. Martin, J. A., Cohen, J., & Stokes, A. (2018). Understanding and evaluating eyewitness recall of events. *Annual International Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Philadelphia, PA*.

17. Young, J., Muttart, J., Suway, J., & Cohen, J. (2017). Nighttime photography and videography: Techniques and applications. Annual International Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Austin, TX.
18. Kuzel, M., Cohen, H. H., Rauschenberger, R., & Cohen, J. (2013). Evaluation of mobile eye tracking for forensic analysis of pedestrian falls. Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, San Diego, CA.
19. Sloan, G. D., Nemire, K. E., Cohen, J., Resnick, M. L., & Cloutier, C. (2012). Presenting human factors testimony to the trier of fact. Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Boston, MA.
20. Thompson, D., Cohen, H. H., & Cohen, J. (2011-2013). How to be an effective human factors/ergonomics expert witness workshop, Annual Meetings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (Las Vegas, Boston, San Diego).
21. Cohen, J. (2010). Ten human error myths. American Society of Safety Engineer's Rethink Safety: A New View of Human Error and Workplace Safety Symposium, San Antonio, TX.
22. Cohen, J. (2009). The role of a just culture. Presentation at the American Society of Safety Engineer's Building a Successful Safety Culture Symposium, Costa Mesa, CA.
23. Cohen, J., & Cohen, H. H. (2009). Spontaneous combustion hazards in wood finishing products. Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, San Antonio, TX.
24. Halford, V., & Cohen, J. (2008). Cognitive reasoning in diabetes self-care. In the proceedings of Improving Patient Safety Conference 2008: From Safe Design to Safe Practice, Cambridge, UK.
25. LaRue, C. A., Cohen, H. H., & Cohen, J. (2007). Limitations of present codes and guidelines in the U.S. for bleacher safety in preventing fall injuries. Presented at the International Conference on Slips, Trips, and Falls: From Research to Practice, Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, Hopkinton, MA.
26. Cohen, J., & Cohen, H. H. (2007). Use of digital surveillance in forensic analysis. Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Baltimore, MD.
27. Cohen, J., & Imada, A. S. (2005). Ergonomic evaluation in food service systems. Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Orlando, FL.
28. Cohen, J., & Cohen, H. H. (2005). Macroergonomics and call center case study. Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Orlando, FL.
29. Cohen, J., Baniyadi, M., Womble, J., Flot, D. T., & Michael, P. G. (2005). An examination of electronic performance monitoring, procedural justice, and stress. Poster presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology, Los Angeles, CA.
30. Cohen, J. & Cohen, H. H. (2001). Hold on! An observational study of staircase handrail use. Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Minneapolis, MN.
31. Cohen, J. (1999). The effects of human factors expert testimony and staircase design on allocation of responsibility in a premises liability case. Annual Meeting of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Houston, TX.