

PERSONNEL SAFETY ISSUES

Forum on Offshore Drilling
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

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BACKGROUND

- Started on Platform A in the mid 80's
- Compliance/Safety Supervisor for 15 offshore and many onshore facilities
- EHS policies/procedures, OSHA training, permitting, and expert witness testimony
- MMS, USCG, DOT, CSLC, OSHA, multiple counties, air districts, fire departments, etc..
- Third Party Auditor primarily working on POCS
 - Facilitated roughly forty (40) SEMP (API RP 75) compliance audits off the POCS and GOM regions.

Good Morale = Builds Relationships = Safe Operation

OUTLINE

1. Where we were
2. Where we are now
3. Where we are heading

Where we were before

Prior to the 1969 - Platform A Blowout:

- Spill Cleanup Technology non-existent
- Poor or nonexistent employee training plans
- No Drug and Alcohol testing
- Little or no EHS policies or procedures
- Environmental and Safety compliance was not a priority or even a profession

This incident was the catalyst that changed the safety culture offshore!

Where we are now

Barriers to **Safety** Today:

1. Most of the Majors are gone
(limited pockets)
2. Capital is harder to come by
3. We have Aging Facilities, and an Aging workforce

Where we are now

Despite these Barriers we have continued to improve the **Safety Culture** on the POCS:

1. EHS compliance is a priority
(Safety, Environment, Production)
2. Most oil and gas operators have an entire staff of EHS professionals
3. Agency Inspectors visit platforms weekly
4. Most operators participate in beyond compliance programs such as BBS, SEMP, and ISO QC.

OVERALL INDUSTRY EHS STATISTICS HAVE SHOWN A STEADY LEVEL OF IMPROVEMENT!

Where we are heading

Post BP/Horizon:

1. A renewed focus in EHS compliance:
(Industry, Federal, State, and Local)
2. As Operators we will continue to improve
Safety compliance
3. More focus on Employee driven plans
4. Human Factors Considered
5. Adversarial relationship with BOEM and
other agencies?

I REALLY HOPE THIS IS NOT THE CASE!!

Closing Comments

1. Focus on the issue at hand (BOP safety, deep water and exploratory drilling)
2. Continue cooperative efforts such as the Focused Facility Reviews (FFR)
3. Finalize the rule on Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS)
4. Focus more on enforcement of existing regulations rather than creating additional bureaucracy.

QUESTIONS





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