



OFFSHORE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TO FLY OR NOT TO FLY THIS IS THE
QUESTION**

Workforce Concerns/Comments

Willie Gibson

- Remarkable resilience shown in the face of tragedy.
- Losing workmates is a greater concern than the fear of flying.
- Proximity – impact. Your Rig, your mates, huge concern, 500 miles away concern different?
- Majority still feel safe because of published statistics.
- Attitude for most is we still have to carry on.
- Attitude is “if we want to work, we have to fly anyway”.
- Oil, Contract Companies and Agencies will give their guys varying amounts of time to reflect on flying.

Workforce Concerns:-

- “We would rather be told about problems first hand not read about them later”.
- “If there is an incident, don’t fly us out there as if nothing has happened”.
- “If you do have to fly us out make sure there are no delays because of technical problems, giving us time to think about it”.
- “On the day, get better trained people to deal with incoming passengers, not just Betty from the office, compassion needed more than HR Speak”.

Concerns of Helideck Crews:-

- Multi-skilling can mean delays in getting from current task to the Helideck.
- Sometimes straight into the task without time to get all info or a break.
- Admin staff, some inexperienced, leads to poor communication.
- Weather reports, taken as read. I.e. “When does your OIM have to close the Helideck?”. “Not sure, never had to close it”.
- “Do these people still get the full Weather Course, or just read the screen?”.

Loss of experience:-

- “Ask the pilots if they saw a difference when experienced Helideck Crews were made redundant and replaced by multi-skilled staff”.
- “Two or three day courses don’t make people competent”.
- “Helideck training is different between Companies within the Industry”.
- “There is a real need for competence assurance on Helidecks”
- “There should be a minimum number of Green Hands on the Helideck at any one time”.
- “All Helideck Crews dressed appropriately for the task”.

Things to do:-

- CAA to declare the minimum number of people to work on the Helideck.
- Put in place through Legislation or Industry Guidance an Adverse Weather Policy applicable to all Helidecks. I.e. Maximum Significant Wave Heights and Maximum Wind Speed to close Helidecks. Availability of rescue facilities, helicopters and Stand By Boats, Daughter Craft etc
- Assure Competence of Helideck Crews, Admin Staff and people who report weather.

Does this Group:-

- Consult with Passengers?
- Consult with Pilots?
- Consult with Offshore Managers?
- Consult with HLO's?
- Consult with Helideck Crews?