

Play your part!



Revised guidance designed to increase workforce involvement offshore to improve safety further has been published by the Workforce Involvement Group of the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee (OIAC).

www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg421.pdf

Piper Alpha

As we reach the twentieth anniversary of the Piper Alpha Disaster, it is appropriate that we reflect on the event and its terrible impact on the lives of so many.

We owe it to the memory of all those who lost their lives or suffered as a result of Piper to ensure that such an incident never happens again.

Everyone in the industry must strive to ensure that they contribute fully to the effective control and management of major hazards offshore and to a safe working environment.



Where to go for more information

GENERAL HSE ENQUIRIES

HSE Infoline:
Tel: 0845 345 0055 Fax: 0845 408 9566
E-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com

WEB-BASED INFORMATION

HSE's offshore safety home page at:
www.hse.gov.uk/offshore

Some useful offshore leaflets can be downloaded free from the HSE website.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We would like to know what you think of this news sheet – send your comments and ideas for future editions to:

Tea-shack News, Health and Safety Executive,
Lord Cullen House, Fraser Place, Aberdeen AB25 3UB
E-mail: osd.tnews@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Stop press...

A one-day event to promote workforce involvement was held on 8 May 2008 at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh. The event was organised by HSE, through the Workforce Involvement Group of OIAC - the Offshore Industry Advisory Committee. The event provided a forum for 125 people from across the broad spectrum of the offshore workforce and aimed to:

- engage and encourage greater workforce involvement;
- promote awareness of major hazard potential;
- raise awareness of barriers to major hazards;
- share experiences of good practice.

For more information see
www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/hsc/iacs/oiac/mfield.htm

50% recycled

When you have finished with this leaflet please recycle it

Printed and published by the Health and Safety Executive

C70 07/08

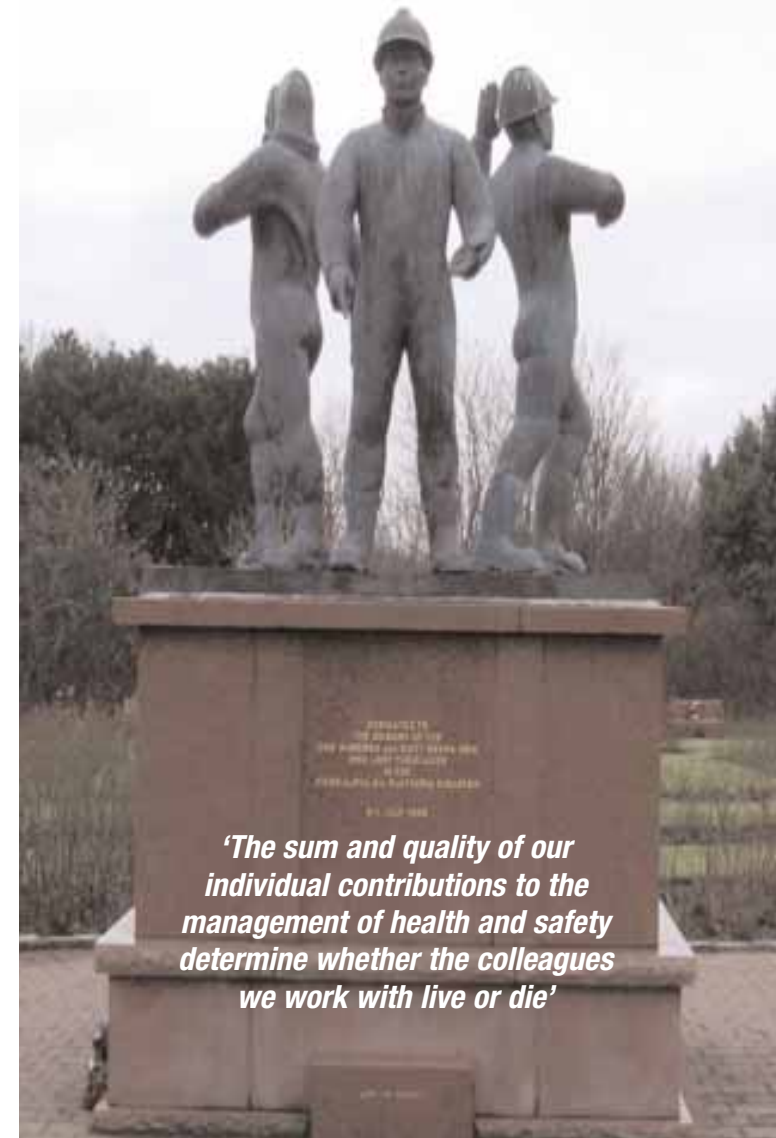


Health and Safety
Executive

Tea-shack News

HSE's news sheet for offshore workers

Issue 7 July 2008



'The sum and quality of our individual contributions to the management of health and safety determine whether the colleagues we work with live or die'

Legacy of neglect? A corrosion update

HSE has started its programme of 'targeted' inspections of external corrosion. All production installation dutyholders will be inspected by the end of March 2010 using the 'External Corrosion Project Template', which can be viewed at: www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/information.htm.

By the end of March 2008, 11 inspections had been undertaken. A further 12 are scheduled to be completed by March 2009.

Identified deficiencies have already required one Improvement Notice to be served.



The Step Change Installation Integrity Work Group (IIWG) document *Guidance for Corrosion Management in Oil and Gas Production and Processing* is due to be published shortly by the Energy Institute.

Oil & Gas UK, in association with the Energy Institute, organised a seminar on 'Effective Corrosion Management' in Aberdeen on 18 June 2008 as part of its aim to raise corrosion awareness.



Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

The Act came into force on 6 April 2008 across the UK and applies to offshore installations. This Act sets out a new offence for convicting an organisation where a gross failure in the way its activities have been managed or organised results in a person's death where there is a duty of care. A substantial part of the failing must have occurred at a senior management level.

The police will lead an investigation if a criminal offence (other than under health and safety law) is suspected. They will work in partnership with the HSE. No individual can be prosecuted under the new Act. The government expect that prosecutions will be rare as it is intended to cover the worst instances of failure. For more information see: www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporatemanslaughter2007.htm

Focus on wireline safety

Due to concerns HSE had about the number of dropped toolstrings, the Well Services Contractors Association (WSCA) and Step Change have issued guidance on the safe rig up/down of wireline lubricators and handling of toolstrings.

A key issue was that industry had not recognised that handling of toolstrings at surface is a lifting operation where LOLER applies.

Recommendations include:

- onshore and onshore job planning;
- detailed work programme and lifting plans;
- improved communication;
- ensuring adequate minimum clearance between toolstring and top sheave;
- use of toolcatchers.

A high-quality CD-ROM is available, which includes animations of rigging up.

HSE recommends that service contractors, drilling contractors and well operators should review and implement this guidance. For more information, contact Step Change (01224 577268 or e-mail info@stepchangeinsafety.net).

Are you being provided with the most suitable footwear?

The link below publicises a case study in HSE's 'Shattered Lives' campaign highlighting the importance of having the most suitable footwear. The case study relates to a UK oil company who were concerned about the number of ankle injuries suffered by staff wearing loose-fitting rigger boots: www.hse.gov.uk/slips/experience/oilcompany.htm



Help reduce hydrocarbon releases offshore

HSE's hydrocarbon releases (HCR) database records HCRs that occur on offshore installations via FORM OIR12. Since 2000 there has been real success in reducing the numbers of the most serious releases – those referred to as major and significant. However, this trend has been reversed over the last two years, with increasing numbers of these releases being recorded. As a result, the industry has failed to meet the agreed target. A rising trend in releases greater than 25 kg is of particular concern.

HSE is expecting renewed efforts from companies to tackle this issue and eliminate HCRs by investment in plant maintenance, training and competence.

The role of on-site personnel is particularly important as evidence suggests that a significant number of larger releases are discovered through observation rather than automatic detection systems.

Accommodation standards

The standard of accommodation provision remains a source of concern for offshore workers. HSE is therefore looking to improve the situation by monitoring dutyholder progress in achieving the goal of two people per cabin over 24 hours. A survey of accommodation standards offshore is planned for 2008/09 with a view to follow-up cases where these standards are not being met. A list of questions and answers about accommodation is provided at: www.hse.gov.uk/offshore/notices/on_62.htm