



DRILLING AHEAD

Safety: Keep your foot on the gas

Mike Killalea, Editor & Publisher

THE WORST TASK in this business—or any other—is breaking the news to an employee's family that their loved one won't be coming home. No one wants that conversation. Fortunately, the incidence of these tragedies has plummeted—so the statistics tell us. But, when it's your family, one event is one too many.

Tom Botts, CEO of Shell EP Europe, recently stressed that improving safety depends on a united approach of industry, company and personal commitment. Tom spoke at the IADC European Health, Safety and Environment Conference, held in Aberdeen during October.

IADC made that commitment long ago. The **Offshore Energy Center** in Galveston, Texas, recognized IADC's contributions to HSE by inducting this Association into the OEC's Hall of Fame. At a ceremony in September, IADC was honored as a Technology Pioneer in the HSE category for outstanding development of Offshore Safety Programs.

It's a tribute to the many IADC volunteers and staff who have made a real difference in preventing harm to people offshore.

In the quarter century from 1977-2002, IADC members realized a 96% reduction in serious drilling accidents on the US OCS.

IADC approached the challenge on several levels. First, in 1974, IADC established a separate and distinct statistical category for offshore incidents.

Second, IADC committees toiled tirelessly to improve attitudes and to build commitment to safety at all levels. These men and women developed many initiatives, reference books, manuals and more.

In 1991, then-IADC Chairman **Alain Roger** of Sedco Forex gave IADC a bold challenge. Mr Roger set a goal of reducing industry accidents in half by 1996. The industry outdid itself, cutting overall industry accident rates from 3.43 injuries per 200,000 manhours to 1.40 for 1996.

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The US offshore also exceeded the goal, slashing its accident rate from 2.32 to 1.02.

Also during the 1990s, IADC introduced two landmark programs—RIG PASS, for rig safety orientation, and WellCAP, for all levels of well-control training. Each have established firm, industry-defined training benchmarks. Nearly 200,000 certificates have been issued under these programs.

Further, IADC's schedule of HSE conferences, workshops and seminars, begun long ago, continue to pursue the goal of zero harm.

As Mr Botts, past Chairman of the UK initiative Step Change for Safety, noted, "Events like the IADC [HSE] Conference help our industry share learning and best practice across the patch."

We're excited about two upcoming events in 2004—our popular IADC Health, Safety, Environment and Training Conference (3-4 Feb, Houston), and the IADC International Lifting and Mechanical Handling Conference (20-21 April, Amsterdam).

Lifting and mechanical-handling are routine operations. Nonetheless, they can cause terrific harm, if not well-managed.

Our April conference will provide an essential forum to share best practices and improve performance in a safety-critical area.

The vision is to explore systems of management control, training and equipment design that will ensure safety during lifting and mechanical handling.

The event will feature participation from operators, contractors and regulators. IADC will issue a call for abstracts soon.

IADC will continue striving toward an industry that does no harm to people. As **Bill McLellan**, one of our speakers in Aberdeen, put it, "When it comes to safety, you can't take your foot off the gas." ■



GULF OF MEXICO 2003 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

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9-10 Dec

Critical Issues:

- ✓ Deepwater
- ✓ Drilling Deep Gas
- ✓ Surface BOP
- ✓ Market Outlook
- ✓ Liner Drilling
- ✓ Well Control
- ✓ Managed Pressure Drilling

Conference Sponsored by
GlobalSantaFe Corp
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Conference Location:
Omni Houston Hotel
Westside, Houston

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