Floating Derrick Safety Meeting Kit

WHAT’S AT STAKE

Many derricks are placed on docks, while others are actually mounted onto vessels. The derricks that are outfitted onto vessels are called “floating derricks.” The derricks used in the offshore industry are typically commissioned to load and unload cargo from vessels at port or at sea.

WHAT’S THE DANGER

COMMON DANGERS FOR WORKERS ON FLOATING DERRICKS

- There is a risk of structural failure due to factors such as extreme weather conditions, heavy loads, or improper maintenance. Any compromise in the derrick’s structure can pose a significant risk to the workers onboard.
- Accidental falls overboard, inadequate safety measures during transportation or transfer operations, and unpredictable sea conditions can pose significant dangers to workers’ lives.
- Certain operations on floating derricks, may involve the handling, storage, or transport of hazardous substances. Workers may be at risk of exposure to toxic or flammable substances, leading to health issues, respiratory problems, chemical burns, or fire and explosion hazards.
- Workers may be exposed to physical and mental fatigue, which can impair their judgment and increase the risk of accidents. The isolation and confinement of offshore environments can also lead to increased stress levels among workers, affecting their overall well-being and performance.
- Helicopter operations come with their own set of risks, including potential crashes during takeoff, landing, or transit. Workers may also face risks associated with

offshore helidecks, such as strong winds, and limited visibility.

- The limited availability of medical facilities, exposure to communicable diseases, inadequate sanitation facilities, and poor nutrition options can impact the overall health and well-being of workers.
- In the event of a serious injury or medical emergency, accessing timely medical care can be challenging. Delayed medical response or inadequate medical facilities can exacerbate the risks to workers' health and well-being.
- Confined spaces can present hazards such as poor ventilation, limited visibility, the presence of toxic gases or hazardous substances, and the potential for entrapment or asphyxiation if safety protocols are not followed.
- Prolonged exposure to excessive noise and vibration can lead to hearing loss, and musculoskeletal disorders.
- Offshore environment, with its noise, distance, and can pose challenges to communication. Inability to receive timely instructions increases the risk of accidents and injuries.
- Reduced visibility at might increases the risks associated with various tasks, including navigation, lifting operations, and emergency responses.
- Working on a floating derrick can involve extended periods away from family can contribute to psychological and emotional stress among workers, potentially impacting their mental health, and concentration.
- Workers may encounter marine creatures, such as sharks or jellyfish, exposure to extreme temperatures or weather conditions, or potential environmental disasters like oil spills or toxic algal blooms.
- Floating derricks have cranes, winches, drilling rigs, and pipelines. Workers can be at risk of being struck by moving objects or caught in machinery if proper precautions and safety measures are not followed.
- Workers on floating derricks may face risks such as the vessel rolling or pitching, which can result in falling objects, unstable footing, or hazardous conditions for equipment operation and personnel transfer.

- Floating derricks are involved in oil and gas operations, where the presence of flammable substances increases the risk of fires and explosions. Equipment malfunctions, ignition sources, leaks, or improper handling of fuels or chemicals can result in catastrophic incidents.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

BEST SAFETY PRACTICES FOR WORKERS ON FLOATING DERRICKS

- Before starting any task, workers should perform a JHA to identify potential hazards.
- Workers should clean up spills, remove trip hazards, and ensure proper storage of tools.
- When performing maintenance on equipment, follow proper lockout/tagout procedures.
- Workers should receive training on safe lifting and manual handling techniques to minimize the risk of strains, sprains, or other musculoskeletal injuries.
- When working at elevated locations on the floating derrick, such as platforms or scaffolding, workers should use fall protection systems, such as harnesses, guardrails, or safety nets.
- Workers should receive training on proper rigging techniques, use appropriate lifting equipment, and ensure that loads are properly secured and balanced.
- Before entering any confined spaces, workers should follow established entry procedures, including atmospheric testing, proper ventilation, and the use of personal gas conditions.
- Workers should strictly adhere to safety procedures and guidelines for tasks such as working at heights, confined space entry, lifting operations, equipment operation, and emergency response.
- Workers should promptly report any near misses or close calls, even if no injuries occurred.
- Workers should actively communicate with their colleagues, supervisors, and safety personnel regarding safety concerns, potential hazards, or any issues that may compromise safety.
- Workers should always wear the appropriate PPE to include

helmets, safety glasses, gloves, hearing protection, respiratory protection, and high-visibility clothing. Workers should ensure that their PPE fits properly, is in good condition, and is worn consistently to provide adequate protection.

- Workers should follow maintenance schedules, conduct pre-use checks, and promptly report any equipment malfunctions or defects to the appropriate personnel.
- Taking the time to follow proper procedures, double-checking tasks, and using appropriate tools and equipment can help prevent accidents caused by negligence or haste.
- Workers should use proper lifting techniques, seek assistance when handling heavy or awkward loads, and avoid overexertion.
- Workers should actively promote a culture of safety by leading by example.

FINAL WORD

Working on floating derricks presents unique hazards and risks due to the offshore environment and the nature of operations. Workers must be aware of these hazards and take proactive measures to prevent accidents and injuries.