BSEE Establishes Goal to Reduce Lifting Incidents by 50%

Lifting incidents are consistently the most frequently reported incident type (Figure 1) by Oil and Gas operators on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), with approximately 22% of the total number of reported incidents classified as crane/or lifting incidents.

Approximately 50% of all reported lifting incidents from 2014-2018 were comprised of a load strike, less than 10% resulted in personal injury, and approximately 86% of reported lifting injuries involved contractors. Since May 2020, every lifting incident reported to BSEE has involved a segment of the Operator's contracted workforce.

* reported lifting and crane incidents in TIMS database.

All lifting incidents create the potential for injury and significant environmental and/or safety impact. Accordingly, in March 2020, BSEE Director Scott Angelle issued a challenge to a select group of engineers, inspectors, and supervisors within BSEE’s district, regional, and HQ offices to identify potential immediate and longer-term actions that could be considered.
by BSEE and industry as mitigation measures for reducing the occurrences and severity of future lifting incidents by the target goal of 50%.

This Safe Lifting Initiative Team has observed that most reported lifting incidents include a human component contributing to the event. This observation is supported by the findings from the ABS Crane Safety Assessment (2015), which reported that 60% to 80% of the mishaps involved human errors. Therefore, BSEE will seek to employ SEMS methodology to identify specific programs or standard operating procedures to drive improvements in lifting safety performance.

**Therefore, BSEE recommends that operators and contractors consider the following:**

- **Improving pre-work planning** - Pre-work planning may not reflect the dynamics of reality for the workplace and should be improved beyond completing a Job Safety Analysis (JSA). The majority (>80%) of the lifting incidents occurred during operations described as “routine” by the operator. **Primary SEMS Elements: Safe Work Practices, Hazard Analysis and Recognition.**

- **Obtaining better data on lifting incident causal factors** - Incident data must be collected with the goal of identifying the undesirable circumstances and behaviors to mitigate future occurrences. **Primary SEMS Elements: Investigation of Incidents, Safe Work Practices.**

- **Identifying/Creating Training Opportunities** - Rigger position training has been identified as critical to improving safe work practices. Since most lifting incidents involve a human element, training should include recognition of human factors and the ability to recognize and mitigate hazards. **Primary SEMS Elements: Training, Safe Work Practices, Hazards Analysis and Recognition.**

BSEE is asking for everyone working on the OCS to join this initiative and help us drive change and reduce lifting incidents by 50% in 2021. Count us in!


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