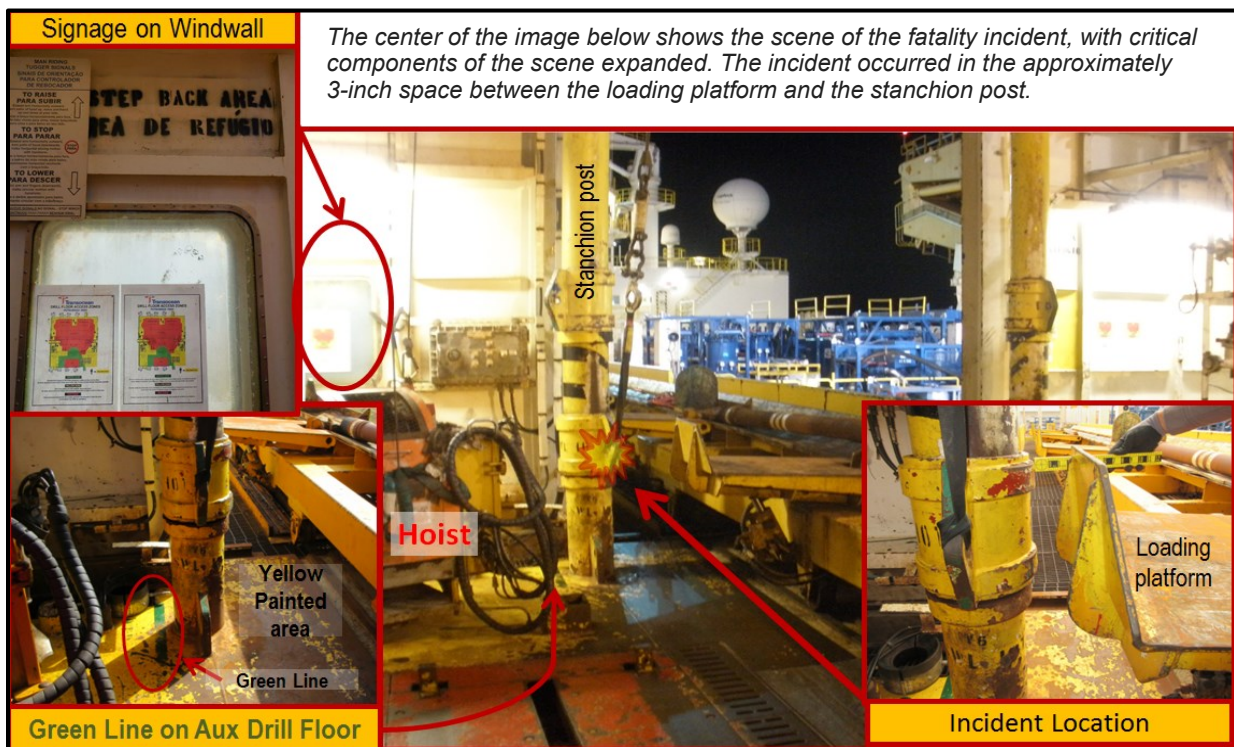


Safety Bulletin No. 015
13 February 2019
Reference [Safety Alert #326](#)

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Fatality Related to Restricted Access Zones, Moving Equipment and Fatigue

During 2017, a fatal incident occurred on a drillship in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico during pipe handling operations. At the time of the incident, the floorhand (casualty) stood in an unmarked pinch point area on the drill floor and faced away from the equipment being used. He was subsequently pinned between the moving equipment and a stanchion post on the drill floor. The incident occurred near the end of a 12-hour shift on the first day back to the drillship after the crew had been off for 21 days.



A BSEE [panel investigation](#) identified a number of direct and contributing causal factors for the incident. Primary among those, the panel concluded that access zones on the drill floor were not adequately depicted, understood, enforced and/or regarded. The risks associated with additional steps to the pipe handling procedures were not sufficiently mitigated. In addition, the floorhand (casualty) and other crewmembers failed to keep themselves and others out of the path of moving equipment and did not stop the job when unsafe coworker positioning was observed. Further, the pinch point hazard was not officially identified and properly mitigated. Fatigue and complacency could have also contributed to the incident.

Therefore, BSEE recommends that operators:

- Ensure all restricted access and safe zones are sufficiently identified and communicated to personnel, and enforced by crewmembers and supervisors.
- Ensure operational procedures are updated and followed to account for, and mitigate, all known risks.
- Evaluate and address potential pinch point areas. Operators should consider reviewing the design and location of moving equipment and/or stationary structures. Operators should also consider hazard mitigations including audible proximity alarms.
- Review every employees' fitness for service on the first day of work on each hitch (including requirements to travel) and consider opportunities to maximize rest and limit fatigue.
- Consider incorporating a safety shelter area on rig floor during routine operations.

--BSEE--

A **Safety Bulletin** is a tool used by BSEE to share the lessons learned from an incident or a near miss. It also contains recommendations that should help prevent the recurrence of such an incident on the Outer Continental Shelf.