On-site Oil and Gas Extraction Worker Fatalities

2013 data (BLS)

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Overview

• Fatality Metrics
• Common Hazards
• Applicable Standards
Oil and Gas Field Activities.

- Drilling
- Servicing
DRILLING

Offshore Platform  Land Rig
Servicing

Work-over Rig

Pump Jack
Horsehead Pump
Grasshopper
Servicing can include operations called, fracking, swabbing, flowing back, pigging, and other methods used to stimulate or improve the flow of the well or clearing lines.
Common Hazards

Fire and explosions
Electrical

Approved for classified hazardous location
Health Hazards

H2S
Hydrogen Sulfide

CH4
Methane
Struck-by
Caught-in-between
Most Frequent Cited OSHA Regulation.

Section 5a1 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Sec. 5. (a) Each Employer –

(1) shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees.
Applicable OSHA Regs

• 29 CFR 1910 – General Industry
• 29 CFR 1926 – Construction
  – Construction regulations apply ONLY to site preparation work prior to the assembly/erection of the rig.
• OTHER – OSHA will frequently refer to American Petroleum Institute (API) when citing Sec. 5a1.
Exemptions

Oil and gas drilling and servicing operations are exempted from several OSHA regulations such as (but not limited to):

- Lock Out Tag Out (LOTO) – Control of hazardous energy.
- Cranes and Derricks
- Hearing Conservation

WHY?
OSHA Proposed a regulation specific to Oil and Gas Well Drilling and Servicing Operation.

The proposed rule incorporated specific requirements pertaining to certain operations (such as Lock Out/Tag Out). Since these areas were to be addressed in an industry specific standard, they were exempted from other standards.

The standard was never promulgated, but the exemptions stayed.
So, what are we doing about it?

- STEPS - Signing of the National STEPS Network Alliance with OSHA & NIOSH on Dec. 2, 2014
Local and/or Regional Emphasis Program

• OSHA LEP’s and REP’s target serious hazards within specific industries.
• The programs include outreach components and annual evaluations to determine the effectiveness.
OUTREACH

• National Oil & Gas Conference held every other year (even years).

• Environmental Oil & Gas Conference held in odd numbered years.
QUESTIONS
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