



Grant Brow

#### WHO'S WHO & DOING WHAT

Grant Brow has recently joined NOPSA's team of inspectors. Grant looks after the Clough Challenge, Maersk Constructor and Castoro Otto facilities.

Prior to joining NOPSA, Grant spent two years with Bureau Veritas Australia as their oil and gas operations manager and a further three-and-a-half years as a consultant in Bureau Veritas's asset integrity management group in Aberdeen, UK. Grant originally started his oil and gas career working for Shell UK in Aberdeen in 1998 during a 'gap year' in his honours degree course in mechanical engineering.

When not working Grant enjoys overseas travel and has various hobbies, including mountain biking and kite surfing.



**NOPSA**

#### NOPSA'S ROLE

To work with the industry, workforce and other authorities to ensure all health and safety risks in the offshore petroleum industry are properly controlled, and to reduce the likelihood and consequences of major accident events.

#### CONTACT US AND FEEDBACK

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#### HAVE YOU READ NOPSA'S 'MESSAGE FROM THE CEO' NEWSLETTER?

This monthly newsletter keeps you up to date with NOPSA's regulatory activities, industry happenings and much more! Send your details to [information@nopsa.gov.au](mailto:information@nopsa.gov.au) to receive future copies.

**BOOT NEWS ROOM**  
FEB 08



NOPSA NEWS SHEET  
FOR OFFSHORE WORKERS  
**FEBRUARY 2008**



**NOPSA**

**National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority**

## BOOT ROOM NEWS

### NOPSA NEWS SHEET FOR OFFSHORE WORKERS



FEBRUARY 08

## NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

### Facility Integrity

NOPSA runs two National Programmes – Lifting Operations and Facility Integrity. These programmes are aimed at issues found across the off-shore oil and gas industry and information is collected from Inspections and from Incident Reports.

Facility Integrity focuses on the Operator's inspection, testing and maintenance against loss of petroleum fluids from failure of offshore production topside structures, process equipment, piping and systems.

A series of prompt sheets based on the Safety Management System cycle and using a 'traffic light' system to indicate the overall assessment status provides information, together with accident and dangerous occurrence reporting. Currently NOPSA examines up to two Facility Integrity topics for each facility a year.

An analysis of reports of accidents and dangerous occurrences made to NOPSA from 2005 to 2007 showed 21 per cent to be related to facility integrity and 12 per cent to hydrocarbon process releases.



Major factors were defective equipment or parts, inadequate preventative maintenance, procedures not followed or inadequate and equipment design.

Initial Facility Integrity results from planned inspections and incident analyses have been presented to industry and are available on the NOPSA website. More detailed data on uncontrolled hydrocarbon releases is also being collected and with historical data will be analysed for more lessons to share with industry.

## REAL DANGER

Staying away from crane loads is a very basic precaution that all people working offshore need to be aware of. Even the most routine of operations can become extremely dangerous if you are in the wrong place.

NOPSA has created a safety alert animation to show how dropped tongs could have caused serious injury or death to a worker caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. CD ROM copies of the animation can be ordered from NOPSA or it can be downloaded from the authority's website under the Safety Alerts link.



## BE TIDY BE SAFE

A recent fire in the engine room of a mobile offshore drilling unit showed the importance of good housekeeping and cleanliness. One of a range of factors which caused the fire to escalate was flammable material in the engine room, including hydrocarbon-contaminated insulation and a wheelie bin. In addition, storage of bulk lube oil and hydraulic fluid on the engine room roof may have led to further escalation of the fire – an additional brief flash fire occurred in this area before being put out by the support vessel's water cannon.



Aftermath of engine room fire  
(Alert 17, NOPSA website)

## DON'T DISTURB INCIDENT SITE

The site of an accident or dangerous occurrence must be left undisturbed. A person disturbing the site can be penalised. An OHS Inspector will determine when the site can be disturbed after consultation with the Safety Authority which may need to gather evidence.



### The only conditions for disturbing a site are:

- OHA Inspector has given permission
- Need to rescue or help casualties or people in danger; maintain safety of the facility or people; reduce danger; retrieving, or attempting to retrieve a dead person
- More than three working days have passed since Safety Authority was notified and no OHS Inspector has gone to investigate

## OIL COMPANY FINED

NOPSA successfully prosecuted oil company, Coogee Resources (Ashmore Cartier) in the Darwin Magistrates Court after a man was badly injured when he fell 4.7 metres while working without restraint devices on an elevated platform without guardrails. Coogee pleaded guilty and was fined.

The penalty is a warning to all companies in the offshore petroleum industry that it is essential to foster a work environment that seeks to reduce hazards and risks in order to protect your most valuable resource – your people.