

What to do if you have safety concerns?

If you have a health or safety concern, the first step is to raise the issue with your line management. If the issue is not resolved, it may then be appropriate to raise your concerns with the Health and Safety Representative for your worksite and/or the Safety Committee.

If these approaches fail to produce a satisfactory outcome then you can raise the issue with an inspector from NOPSA.

You can call NOPSA's incident reporting number: (08) 6461 7090 or email us on: information@nopsa.gov.au

All voluntary reports made by workers on offshore facilities are treated in confidence and can be made anonymously. NOPSA will examine the nature of the report and decide on an appropriate course of action.

Learn lessons from other's mistakes

Many lessons can be learnt from collecting details of safety incidents that happen on offshore facilities.

Offshore operators are required by law to report details of all accidents and dangerous occurrences to NOPSA.

The data that is collected yields valuable information on the causes of these incidents and may prevent them happening again somewhere else.

After examining the data, NOPSA has found that the three most common root causes of incidents are:

- Preventive maintenance requiring improvement
- Safe work procedures not used or followed
- Design specifications need improvement

Workers on offshore facilities have a responsibility to ensure that they work safely. Following safe working procedures is a key part of this responsibility. Taking an active interest in safety matters is one way of helping reduce risks to yourself and your workmates.

Know your safety case

Every offshore petroleum facility operating in Australia must have a safety case accepted by NOPSA.

A 'Safety Case' examines the risks of major accident events that may occur on an offshore facility, including:

- Fire or explosion
- Hydrocarbon release and Blowout from wells.
- Vessel collision
- Helicopter crash

The safety case details all the measures that are in place to reduce the risk of major accident events.

It must demonstrate how and why these measures will reduce risks to the health and safety of people on the facility. Typical measures commonly referred to as preventative 'controls' can include:

- Fit-for-Purpose Design of plant and machinery
- Competent workforce
- Well maintained plant and equipment, and in particular, safety critical equipment
- The conduct of Job Safety Analysis prior to any potentially hazardous work

In assessing whether a safety case is acceptable, NOPSA will look for evidence that operators have correctly identified all potential major accident events and made the proper selection and application of control measures for each of them. The operator must show there has been effective consultation and participation by the workforce in the development of a safety case.

This enables workers on a facility to understand all the possible hazards they may face in their job and the risk controls that are in place to address these hazards.

Dangers in 'home-made' tools

Examples of 'makeshift' tools and equipment that have been modified to suit another purpose are still posing dangers to workers in the global offshore industry.

Properly designed and engineered equipment is vital for safe operations on a facility.

Lifting operations which use modified winches and hooks – not designed for the type of work or weight involved have caused unnecessary injury and risk to workers on overseas facilities in recent times.

Have you noticed any 'home-made' tools or equipment on your offshore facility? It is safe practice to find and eliminate these.

Remember, if you don't have the right tools for the job don't 'make do' – it's not worth the risk to you or your workmates.



Homemade lift cap built from old drill collar pin.

New leader for NOPSA

Jane Cutler is the newly appointed CEO of NOPSA. With over 27 years of diverse experience in the petroleum and financial services industries, Ms Cutler was most recently a senior executive for Woodside Energy.

Ms Cutler's qualifications include a Master of Business Administration, Master of Environmental Studies and Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical and Materials).

"By working cooperatively together – operators, workers, the regulator – we can help to lift the health and safety performance of the Australian offshore petroleum industry," she said.



Jane Cutler, CEO

Alert on electrical equipment

A recent safety alert issued by NOPSA highlights inappropriate or poorly maintained electrical equipment on offshore facilities that could trigger a fire or explosion if hydrocarbons or other flammable materials are present.

Electrical equipment used in hazardous areas should be subjected to regular specialist inspection, maintenance and re-certification.

NOPSA has recently delivered a range of enforcement actions to operators of offshore facilities for defects in the condition of electrical equipment that could have increased the risk to health and safety.



National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority

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 to receive future copies.



NOPSA

BOOTROOMNEWS

NOPSA NEWS SHEET FOR OFFSHORE WORKERS

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