Risk

Nobody will forget the Alexander Kielland which sank in the Norwegian North Sea due to structural failure in a storm (post welding operations) in 1981 with the loss of 123 lives.

Nobody will forget Piper Alpha which blew up in the UK North Sea in 1988 with the loss of 167 lives.

Nobody will forget the Mumbai High North Platform disaster in India in 2005 due to a supply boat reversing into one of the platforms’ risers.

Remains of the Alexander Kielland

Piper Alpha, UK North Sea, 1988

Mumbai High Platform, India 2005

Why do blowouts keep happening?

Nobody will forget the Montara event offshore Australia.

Nobody will forget the loss of 11 lives when the Transocean-owned and BP operated Deepwater Horizon exploded in 2010.

Montara, 2009, Timor Sea, Australia

The Deepwater Horizon, Gulf of Mexico, 2010

IDEAS (Independent Drilling Engineering Associates) carries out Drilling Consultancy and Training Services to the highest standards, with the absolute best people in their areas of expertise to serve you quickly, optimally and professionally.

With a typical minimum of 35 years combined field and onshore experience, our expert Consultants and Trainers bring a wealth of experience to your rigs, projects and classrooms.

Our work ethics, practices and training materials are all based upon the extremely high standards published by API, IADC, SPE, NACE, IADC Wellsharp, IADC Wellcap Plus, IWCF and IOGP.
After the Deepwater Horizon incident, you’d have thought that blowouts would have come to an end. Not so. Just two years later, the KS Endeavour jack-up below blew-out offshore to Nigeria, killing two people, in 2012.

The troubling thing is, these are just a few events out of a continual catalogue of disasters stretching back to Spindletop in Texas in 1901 and before. If you type into any search engine “rig or platform disaster” you’ll literally find dozens of incidents, all preventable, ranging from land to offshore, ranging world-wide.

So why do blowouts keep happening? Well, there are a variety of reasons, ranging from competency through to how the risk analysis work was carried out.

IDEAS are experts at Risk Analysis and we are fortunate to have a full-time expert in the subject area. Mr. Pawlewski wrote the Company’s software package “Risk Impact” which is Monte Carlo based and analyses both Probability of Occurrence of Event and its Tolerability.

The ensuing “Safety Factors” tell us what we must be looking at; just because something only has a one in a million chance of happening doesn’t mean it can be ignored.

Apart from the loss of human life, there are other losses too, for example:-

• Loss of Rig / Asset / Infrastructure
• Coastal Marine Life
• Onshore Wildlife
• Agricultural Land (e.g. near Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia)
• Marine Fisheries
• Environment
• Oil & Gas Production
• Profits
• Company Reputation / Drop in share price (as we saw with BP following Macondo) / Loss of Company (e.g. Saga, Norway following the 2-4/14 Blowout)
• Loss of Licenses
• Industry Reputation

There are also increases associated with blowouts, e.g.:-

• Insurance
• Increased Regulation (e.g. U.S.A. following Macondo)
• Public Relations Difficulty (e.g. the public are against drilling in the Arctic and Antarctic)
• Hiring Difficulty
• Well cost.

For Risk Solutions – please call us. We can help you.