

Bilagshæfte til betænkn. o. lovf. vedr. visse havanlæg

- 3.4.2. The length of time construction workers spend offshore.
- 3.4.3. Environmental effects, such as strong winds affecting balance, and a chill effect caused by low temperatures in a marine atmosphere, which reduce physical and mental resilience.
- 3.4.4. Underestimation by contractors of the difficulties of offshore work and the need for careful selection of personnel suitable for a construction site at high level and exposed conditions.

Drilling

3.5. This area has the bleakest record for the total of fatal and serious accidents. Drilling takes place in the exploration, appraisal and development phases of offshore activity and on average there has been one fatal or serious accident for each $7\frac{1}{2}$ wells drilled. Drilling is a 24 hour activity, but accidents are fairly equally distributed between the daylight and night hours. The accident rate per rig year is only slightly higher for mobile drilling units than for rigs on fixed platforms (0.61 v 0.54 per rig year), thus there is little evidence that the movement of the semi-submersible rig or its use predominantly for exploration play any marked part in causing drilling accidents. Although the actual number of accidents is high it should be noted that there was on average considerably less than one accident (0.59) per rig year.

3.6. The drill floor is undoubtedly a dangerous place to work. Heavy equipment and tubulars are being man-handled and the work is frequently arduous and the shift hours long. The activity takes place in the open air and the surfaces are often slippery from the drilling fluid used and the rain. Work is also carried out up in the derrick and on the blow-out preventor equipment beneath the drill floor. It is therefore not unexpected that accidents occur from slipping or falling and these together represent about 20 per cent of the causes of accidents. However, by far the majority (80 per cent) of the accidents result from the handling of very heavy equipment, materials and tubulars and from the nature of the drilling activity itself, which is labour intensive. Approximately half of these accidents occurred to the man handling such items, the other half occurred when men were struck by equipment etc being manoeuvred by others.

Diving

3.7. An accident to a diver is, as the figures show, particularly likely to be fatal. In general the reason for this is the difficulty of giving aid to a diver in trouble at his operating depth, which emphasises the need for the diving industry to work at all times to the highest standard of safety. There have also been accidents the cause of which remains unexplained. This leads to the conclusion that there is a lack of knowledge of the physical limitations of divers at work.

3.8. Factors that seem to underly the frequency and severity of diving accidents are:

- 3.8.1. The level of training and experience of divers and supervisors.
- 3.8.2. The execution of diving operations in waters congested with anchor cables, and other submerged hazards.
- 3.8.3. Design and equipment failure.