



SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

Shallow water drilling takes place in less than 500 feet of water using proven rigs and technology. Shallow water drilling takes place in smaller, mature reservoirs. These reservoirs have well-known, documented geology and pressures, which allows for safe, predictable drilling. On shallow water rigs, blowout preventers (BOPs) are based on the rig itself, just above the surface of the water. These BOPs are constantly inspected, maintained, and ready to deploy at a moment's notice.

OVER 11,000 WELLS DRILLED. JUST 15 BARRELS SPILLED

In the last 15 years, 11,070 wells have been drilled in less than 500 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico. During that time, only 15 barrels of oil have been spilled. The largest shallow water spill was just 10 barrels, spilled off Louisiana on March 8, 2003.^[1]

EVEN SECRETARY SALAZAR RECOGNIZES THE SHALLOW WATER TRACK RECORD

Shallow water operations are different and safer than deepwater drilling. Even Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has said so. In his public statements, Secretary Salazar has noted:

"Drilling that takes place in the deepwater environment poses more significant risks than drilling in shallow waters." ^[2] [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

"Shallow water spills tend to be more confined and easier to address." ^[3] [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

"While technological progress has enabled the pursuit of deeper oil and gas deposits in deeper water, the risks associated with operating in water depths in excess of 1,000 feet are significantly more complex than in shallow water." ^[4] [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

JET SKIS SPILL MORE OIL THAN SHALLOW WATER RIGS

In 2002, the National Academy of Sciences calculated petroleum discharges into North American marine waters from 1990 to 1999. The average annual input from oil and gas drilling was 3.0 tonnes of petroleum (882 gallons). The average annual input from recreational marine vehicles was 5.6 tonnes (1646 gallons). In North American marine waters, land runoff combined with marine boating and the use of jet skis account for 22 percent of total petroleum inputs. Oil and gas drilling account for just 1.2 percent. ^[5] [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

WORKER SAFETY

The shallow water drilling industry is committed to maintaining a culture of safety for its employees at all time. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, oil & gas extraction has a lower injury rate than 89 percent of the total 134 million working Americans, based on industry groups. ^[6]

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According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, oil & gas extraction accounted for 21 of the 5,214 total fatal workplace injuries in 2008 - among the lowest number of fatalities across all industries. Fatalities among oil and gas extraction is lower than that of roofers (69 fatalities) and janitors (57) - and is actually comparable to fatalities among newspaper publishers (18 in 2008). ^[7]

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

1. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Loss of Well Control statistics

2. Department of Interior, Decision Memorandum on Offshore Drilling Suspension, July 12, 2010

3. Department of Interior, Decision Memorandum on Offshore Drilling Suspension, July 12, 2010

4. Department of the Interior, Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf, May 27, 2010

5. National Academy Press, Oil in the Sea III, 2002

6. Bureau of Labor Statistics: 2008 Incidence Rates of Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses

7. Bureau of Labor Statistics: 2008 Incidence Rates of Fatal Occupational Injuries