

# Anchor Handling Safety Meeting Kit



## WHAT'S AT STAKE

Anchor handling is a critical operation performed in the offshore oil and gas industry, particularly during the installation, maintenance, and decommissioning of offshore structures such as drilling rigs, production platforms, and floating vessels.

## WHAT'S THE DANGER

### COMMON DANGERS OF ANCHOR HANDLING

- **Equipment Failure:** Winches, cables, chains, and anchor handling tugs, can experience mechanical failures.
- **Personnel Injuries:** There is a risk of personnel getting caught, entangled, or struck by moving machinery, cables, or chains. Falls from height, slips, trips, and other accidents can also occur during the operation.
- **Vessel Capsizing or Instability:** Uncontrolled movements, excessive strain, or inadequate weight distribution can lead to capsizing, listing, or loss of stability, endangering the crew and equipment onboard.
- **Collision with Underwater Infrastructure:** During anchor handling, there is a risk of anchors striking and damaging underwater infrastructure such as pipelines, subsea cables, or other installations.
- **Environmental Impact:** Accidental spills or leaks of pollutants from vessels or anchor handling equipment can also harm marine ecosystems.
- **Unpredictable Weather Conditions:** Strong currents, high winds, and rough seas can make the operation challenging and increase the likelihood of accidents, equipment failures, or loss of control.
- **Communication and Coordination Challenges:** Failure to maintain clear and timely communication can lead to misunderstandings, errors in handling procedures, or inadequate response to emergencies.
- **Human Error:** Mistakes in judgment, miscommunication, lack of proper training, or fatigue can result in incorrect procedures, inadequate equipment handling, or failure to recognize and address safety hazards.

## HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

### COMMON ACCIDENTS THAT OCCUR DURING ANCHOR HANDLING OPERATIONS:

- **Slipping or Tripping:** Working on a vessel's deck or on slippery surfaces while

handling anchors and equipment increases the risk of personnel slipping or tripping and sustaining injuries.

- **Pinch Points and Crush Injuries:** Accidents can occur when personnel's body parts or clothing get caught or trapped in pinch points or between moving equipment, resulting in crush injuries.
- **Falls:** Falls from height can happen during anchor handling activities, especially when personnel are working on elevated platforms, cranes, or rigging structures.
- **Struck by Moving Objects:** Uncontrolled swinging or movement of the anchors, snapping cables, or loose objects can cause severe injuries if they contact personnel.
- **Equipment Failures:** Sudden release of tension, whipping cables, or uncontrolled movements of heavy equipment can pose a significant danger to personnel in the vicinity.
- **Collisions:** Collisions can occur during anchor handling operations when vessels come into contact with each other, underwater structures, or other infrastructure.
- **Fires and Explosions:** Accidental fuel spills, ignition sources, or equipment malfunctions can lead to fires and explosions during anchor handling operations.
- **Environmental Incidents:** Mishandling of anchors result in damage to ecosystems.

## BEST PROTECTIVE PRACTICES IN ANCHOR HANDLING OPERATIONS

### 1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Wear the necessary PPE:

- **Hard hat:** Protects your head from falling objects or bumps.
- **Safety goggles or face shield:** Shields your eyes and face from debris, splashes, or flying particles.
- **Protective gloves:** Provide hand protection against cuts, abrasions, or pinch points.
- **Safety footwear:** Use steel-toed boots to protect feet from heavy objects.
- **High-visibility clothing:** Wear brightly colored clothing enhance visibility.
- **Life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFDs):** Use floatation devices when working.

### 2. Training and Knowledge: Acquire proper training and knowledge specific to anchor handling operations.

### 3. Communication and Coordination: Use established hand signals, radio communication, or other communication methods to ensure clear and timely information exchange.

### 4. Risk Assessment: Conduct a thorough risk assessment before beginning anchor handling operations. Identify potential hazards, evaluate the risks, and develop appropriate control measures.

### 5. Safe Working Practices:

- Maintain a clean and well-organized work area to minimize trip hazards.
- Ensure proper lighting is available, especially during night operations.
- Follow proper lifting techniques when handling heavy objects to avoid strain or injuries.
- Stay clear of areas where there is a risk of being caught or trapped.

### 6. Emergency Preparedness: Know the location of emergency equipment.

### 7. Practice Self-Care: Take care of yourself by getting adequate rest, eating well, and staying physically fit.

**8. Report Equipment Issues:** Regularly inspect equipment for any signs of wear, damage, or malfunction.

**9. Maintain a Clean and Organized Work Area:** Keep your work area clean and free of clutter.

**10. Safe Lifting and Handling:** Use proper lifting techniques when handling heavy objects or equipment.

**11. Risk Assessment:** Take part in the risk assessment process and contribute to identifying potential risks.

## **FINAL WORD**

The hazards associated with anchor handling, such as equipment failures, personnel injuries, collisions, and environmental impacts, underscore the need for strict adherence to safety protocols and best practices.