

Evening Technical Meeting: Piper Alpha, 30 Years Later

Wednesday, 13th June 2018 ✦ Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Mill St. Perth

Onsite Registration 5.30 pm; Presentations 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm; Networking over drinks and finger food 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm

To register for the event visit www.SUTETM13June2018.eventbrite.com.au

Chaired by: Paul Farquharson, Regional SPS / Services Engineering Leader, Baker Hughes, a GE Company

Remembering Piper Alpha – The Night that Changed Our World

Paul Farquharson, Regional SPS / Services Engineering Leader, Baker Hughes, a GE Company

Piper Alpha was a production platform in the North Sea approximately 120 miles (190 km) north-east of Aberdeen, Scotland. Operated by Occidental Petroleum (Caledonia) Limited. It began production in 1976 primarily as an oil only platform, but later converted to add gas production. On the 6th July 1988, an explosion and resulting oil & gas fires destroyed the platform killing 167 people. 61 workers escaped and survived. 30 bodies were never recovered. This is a commemoration to the 167 workers who lost their lives that night and to those who were directly affected by this disaster.

Piper Alpha – Testimonies and the Cullen Inquiry

Brendan Fitzgerald, Managing Director, Vanguard Solutions

The presentation will address aspects of the Piper Alpha Disaster using extracts from the testimony of survivors. Brendan attended much of the first part of the Inquiry and hearing & reading the testimony of the survivors changed his life forever. At the time of the Piper Alpha Disaster, Brendan Fitzgerald was working as a Principal Process Safety Engineer with WS Atkins in the UK. Days after the Department of Energy issued their preliminary report in September 1988, Brendan attended a meeting at Dresser Rand's offices in Manchester where he found himself to be the only Process Engineer present. The Dept of Energy report had presented two main theories for the disaster, the second of which implicated the reciprocating compressors, supplied by Ingersoll-Rand and maintained by Dresser Rand. Over the next six months, Brendan led the team that disproved this theory. His work was subject to the only Technical Sub-Committee meeting at the Inquiry and was accepted in full. The relevance of the disaster to today's operations will be explored and questions raised that will challenge us all.

Piper Alpha – The Catalyst for Industry Regulation Change

Jeremy Dunster, Manager Assessment and Inspection – Vessel Facilities, NOPSEMA

The Piper Alpha incident in 1988 was the catalyst for change in the regulation of offshore petroleum activities in a number of jurisdictions, as had a number of major incidents similarly driven change in major hazard industries in the previous decades, and would continue to in subsequent decades. The fundamental change to the regulatory regime for offshore petroleum activities in Australia has been the move from a prescriptive, rules based approach, administered by the states and territory to an objective based approach, administered by an independent and appropriately resourced regulator. Today, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) independently regulates the safety, well integrity and environmental management of offshore petroleum activities across all of the Commonwealth's offshore areas. Going forward the challenge is for industry to make a step change in safety, well integrity and environmental performance, and the part NOPSEMA can play in this endeavour.

Operating in the post Piper Alpha Era - an Operator's Perspective

Ian Grant, Chief Operating Officer, Quadrant Energy

To this day, the Piper Alpha disaster represents the worst offshore oil industry disaster ever, and has become a pivotal industry-changing event. The subsequent public Cullen Inquiry report made many recommendations, including those related to inherently safer design (ISD) for future facilities. The residual risk above the inherently safer design then had to be managed by a safety management system (SMS), which is another Inquiry recommendation that comprises many of the elements of process safety and under-pinned by a continuous improvement cycle. The industry has taken these recommendations and embedded them into our regulatory framework, further enhanced by industry studies, with the aim to make our workplaces safer. This presentation provides an overview of the practical methods that modern Operators utilize to not just comply with the post Piper Alpha era regulatory requirements, but also by utilizing modern methods to enhance the safety of all personnel in the operating environment, from facility design through to operating, maintenance and integrity philosophies.

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(correct at time of creating flyer)

REGISTRATION FEES:

Student/Individual/Corp Members \$30*: Non-Members \$50: (additional \$5 if paying on night)

5 Ticket Member Pass: \$125, 5 Ticket Non-Member Pass: \$225

CPD = 1.5 hrs

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