



Violation of Shell's 12 Life Saving Rules

Cell Phone Use While Operating Vehicle



DIVISION:	North American Operations
LOCATION:	Southern California
INCIDENT DATE:	May 19, 2010
OSHA RECORDABLE:	No

INCIDENT SUMMARY

Delta's drilling subcontractor was onsite performing air-knife activities prior to setting temporary vapor probes. Upon completion of coring the first location, the subcontractor received a phone call from a co-worker and accepted the call within the cab of the rig. Shortly after receiving the call, the Delta project manager (PM), who was onsite performing a safety audit, observed the rig backing up with the aid of a spotter. The PM witnessed the driver of the rig with a cell phone to his ear as he was backing the rig up. Work was stopped and the driver was told that he was not to use the phone while driving, as this was a violation of Shell's 12 Life-Saving Rules, which had been discussed during the morning's health and safety meeting. There has since been communication with the subcontractor's management which resulted in the operator being replaced from the project.

ROOT CAUSES:

- The employee was talking on his cell phone at the time and was not fully focused on the operation of the vehicle and his surroundings.
- The subcontractor stated that his phone had rung several times earlier that morning (each call from the same co-worker), which he had declined to answer, thus serving as a distraction.
- The subcontractor chose to answer the final call from the co-worker because he was concerned that his co-worker needed his assistance. The subcontractor was not fully thinking about the task at hand (repositioning the vehicle) or Shell's 12 Life-Saving Rules, rather was distracted by the telephone conversation.

DELTA CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Delta contacted the subcontractor's management immediately and discussed the potential hazards associated with operating a vehicle while talking on a phone. The subcontractor's management immediately removed the employee from the project, placed the employee on 2-days suspension without pay, and provided refresher training for both Shell's 12 Life-Saving Rules, and driver's safety training.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Always adhere to Shell's 12 Life-Saving Rules and never use a cell phone while operating a vehicle.
2. Before changing tasks on a project, take a moment to consider the potential hazards involved and topics discussed during the onsite health and safety meeting(s).
3. If your cell phone is a distraction while you are working, turn it off and/or store it in your vehicle.
4. Plan ahead and inform others when you will not be accessible by cell phone, and if necessary, provide an alternative contact who can assist callers in case of an emergency.