

Distraction – Don't text and navigate

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The use of phones and other electronic devices while on duty is a major safety hazard in the offshore industry.

Overview

A dynamic positioned (DP) PSV was conducting operations near a drilling rig in the North Sea.

The DPO of the PSV was using their phone while they were supposed to be monitoring the vessel's position. As a result, they were not paying attention to the vessel's movements, and it drifted too close to the rig. The vessel collided with the rig, causing significant damage to both assets.

The investigation into the incident found that the operator of the PSV had been using their phone for personal reasons while they were supposed to be monitoring the vessel's position. The investigation also found that the operator had not received adequate training on the use of DP Control System.

Recommendations

Recommendations included:

- Increased training for DP operators on the use of phones and other electronic devices while on duty.
- Increased supervision of DP operators to ensure they are not distracted from their duties.
- Improved procedures for monitoring the position of DP vessels.
- Operator stations should have a personal phone ban within a certain radius.
- Use of Mobile Phones and other personal smart devices should be addressed in the Master's and Chief Engineer's DP standing orders.

Conclusion

The incident involving the PSV is a reminder of the importance of operator attention when operating DP vessels. Distractions, such as the use of phones, can have serious consequences. By following the recommendations of the investigation, the offshore industry can help to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future.

The use of phones and other electronic devices while on duty is a major safety hazard in the offshore industry.

Related IMCA Guidance

[IMCA M117](#)

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