LTIs and recordables fall to record low in 2003

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THE DRILLING INDUSTRY’S worldwide Lost Time Incidence (LTI) rate dropped to an all time low of 0.63 in 2003, 3% better than the previous low of 0.65 in 2002. The drilling industry’s efforts towards safety have resulted in the industry’s occupational LTI rate per 100 workers to fall from more than 14.00 in 1963 to 0.63 in 2003, nearly a 22-fold improvement. The Recordable Incident rate also reached an all time low of 2.23, 5% better than the 2002 rate of 2.34.

The industry’s 2003 LTI and recordable incidence rate fell to record lows.

The rates in the 2003 IADC Summary of Occupational Incidents (SOI) are calculated based on incidents per 200,000 man-hours. During 2003, 94 contractors, representing approximately 70% of the worldwide drilling rig fleet, participated in the program. A total of 301.96 million man-hours worked were recorded. Contractors striving for safety improvement by participating in the ASP program reported 3,369 Recordable Incidents, 924 LTIs and 31 fatalities. The 31 fatalities recorded during 2003 are up from 15 recorded in 2002 and were the highest since 1987 when drilling contractors also reported 31 fatalities. The 2003 fatality rate was 0.02 compared with 0.06 in 1987.

UNITED STATES

US land contractors worked 54.06 million man-hours compared with 38.07 million man-hours for offshore during 2003. US land and offshore operations accounted for seven and five fatalities, respectively.

Lost time incidents among US offshore workers increased slightly from 0.50 in 2002 to 0.51 in 2003, while their Total Recordable Incidence Rate improved 23% from 2.21 in 2002 to 1.70 in 2003. US Land saw its LTI rate improve 8% from 1.73 in 2002 to 1.59 in 2003 and Recordable Incidence Rate improved 7% from 6.24 in 2002 to 5.83 in 2003.

CANADA

Canadian contractors accounted for 4.46 million man-hours and had one fatal incident. Canadian Land had 2.49 million man-hours with one fatality and offshore had 1.97 million man-hours and no fatalities.

In 2002, Canada Land had an LTI rate of 1.20 but saw a 13% increase to 1.36 for 2003, while their Recordable Incidence rate increased 61% from 5.77 in 2002 to 9.31 for 2003. Canada Water saw its 2002 LTI rate of 1.06 improve 71% to 0.31 for 2003. The 2002 Recordable Incidence rate of 3.04 improved 3% to 2.95 for 2003.

EUROPE

Contractors in the European Land and Offshore categories worked more than 27.53 million man-hours with one fatality in 2003. European offshore accounted for almost 22.29 million man-hours worked and one fatality while European
Land had 5.24 million man-hours and no fatalities.

European Land workers saw their LTI rate improve 11% from 0.94 in 2002 to 0.84 in 2003, while the Recordable Incidence Rate improved 15% from 2.51 in 2002 to 2.10 in 2003. European offshore workers’ LTI rate improved 8% from 0.49 in 2002 to 0.45 for 2003 while the Recordable Incidence rate improved 24% from 1.54 in 2002 to 1.20 in 2003.

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

Central & South America accounted for 53.64 million man-hours, with no fatalities in the offshore operations which had 17.34 million man-hours. Central & South America Land reported 36.31 million man-hours with five fatal incidents. Central & South America Water had an LTI Rate of 0.44 in 2002, which improved 16% to 0.37 for 2003, while their Recordable Incidence rate improved 24% from 1.98 in 2002 to 1.51 for 2003.

The region’s Land LTI rate of 0.33 for 2002 increased (worsened) 12% to 0.37 for 2003, while their Recordable Incidence rate of 1.18 for 2002 improved 6% to 1.11 for 2003.

AFRICA

Africa accounted for 33.79 million man-hours and six fatalities. Africa Land posted 13.59 million man-hours with one fatality compared to Africa Water with 20.2 million man-hours and five fatalities. The Africa Land LTI rate for 2002 was 0.88 and improved slightly to 0.87 for 2003 while the Recordable Incidence rate improved slightly from 2.01 in 2002 to 2.00 in 2003. The Africa Water LTI rate of 0.44 for 2002 increased 16% to 0.51 for 2003 while the Recordable Incidence rate improved slightly from 1.57 in 2002 to 1.55 in 2003.

MIDDLE EAST

Middle East Land had the lowest LTI rate of 0.30 and lowest Recordable Incidence rate for land divisions worldwide at 1.08. The Middle East also had the lowest LTI rate of 0.18 as well as the lowest Recordable Incidence rate of 0.91 for the water divisions.

The region accounted for 54.67 million man-hours with two fatalities. The Land division posted 37.78 million man-hours and one fatality while the offshore division recorded 16.89 million man-hours and also one fatality.

The Middle East Land LTI 2002 rate of 0.28 worsened by 7% to 0.30 in 2003, while their 2002 Recordable Incidence rate of 1.10 improved by 2% to 1.08 in 2003. Middle East Water LTI rate improved 58% from 0.43 in 2002 to 0.18 in 2003 and their Recordable Incidence rate also improved 28% from 1.27 in 2002 to 0.91 in 2003.

ASIA PACIFIC

Asia Pacific accounted for 35.74 million man-hours and five fatalities. Offshore had 22.79 million man-hours with two fatalities while the Land Division had 12.95 million man-hours and three fatalities. Nearly one third of the fatal incidents occurred to employees who had over five years service with the company. The Asia Pacific Land 2002 LTI rate was 0.51 and improved 22% to 0.40 in 2003, while the Recordable Incidence rate improved 10% from 2.20 in 2002 to 1.84 in 2003. Asia Pacific Water 2002 LTI rate of 0.42 improved 45% to 0.23 but the Recordable Incidence rate improved 27% from 1.32 in 2002 to 0.97 in 2003.

MORE INFORMATION

The “2003 Summary of Occupational Injuries” is available on CD ROM format through IADC Publications Department. Call Loretta Krolecky at 1/713 292 1945, (fax 1/713 292 1946; publications@iadc.org). Companies that wish to participate in the ASP database can contact Dawn Brown at the same telephone and fax numbers.