

Third-party equipment is common in almost all aspects of upstream oil & gas operations. Equipment ranges widely depending on the subsector, and some examples are generators, loaders, cross-over subs, radios, air packs and downhole tools. Some common factors contribute to incidents involving third-party equipment:

- Lack of familiarity with the specific equipment
- Limited knowledge of equipment history or maintenance
- Improper pre-use inspection
- Disabled safety systems
- Lack of training and competence with the equipment
- Not following procedures
- Concurrent work activities
- Poor communication

Third-party equipment is temporary and often for specialized use. Therefore, this equipment generally represents a change from standard operations and workers using it may not be familiar with or aware of the hazards.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WORKING WITH THIRD-PARTY EQUIPMENT

- Suppliers must ensure equipment is safe when used according to manufacturer instructions and maintain equipment in a safe condition.
- Workers should read and review the manufacturer's operating manual or procedures.
- Only individuals deemed competent should inspect and operate third-party equipment.
- Before accepting equipment, complete a pre-use inspection to verify certifications and ratings.
- Function test safety systems and interlocks according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Review the responsibilities of each worker and establish who has control of the equipment.
- Communication method(s) between workers and go/no-go conditions should be reviewed with the individuals involved.
- Consider how activities may impact personnel who are not directly involved with the work.
- Review the permits and procedures for the equipment, follow company management of change (MOC), and identify any additional hazards that are unique for the specific equipment. Consider line of fire hazards such as pressure releases, rotating equipment, etc.



WHAT CAN SUPERVISORS DO?

- Communicate with suppliers any specifications (e.g. dimensions, flow requirements, volume, connections and power) and certification requirements (e.g. material and mill certification).
- Assign competent workers to receive and inspect equipment as soon as it arrives.
- Review and verify worker competence periodically.
- Communicate changes in operations due to third-party equipment.
- Ensure equipment specific hazards are reviewed by the appropriate personnel.
- Establish who has control of the equipment and identify scenarios where that could change (e.g. the directional driller might dictate flow rates while steering, but in a well control situation the driller takes control).

WHAT CAN WORKERS DO?

- Perform equipment checks according to supplier and manufacturer guidance.
- Participate in safety meetings and pre-job planning with all parties within the job scope.
- Identify hazards and work with supervisors to implement controls or solutions.
- Test safety interlock systems such as kill switches, emergency shut down (ESD) and safety interlocks.

REFERENCES

- [Safety Alert: Worker Struck by Pipe Wrench](#)
- [Safety Alert: Dropped Drill Collar](#)
- [Safety Alert: Drilling Mud Centrifuge Failure](#)
- [Government of Alberta: Obligations of Work Site Parties](#)

PRESENT LIKE A PRO

Before you begin:

Review this material and make sure you understand it and how the topic can be applied.

Research your own company's experience so you can provide examples that pertain to your work areas.

Anticipate questions and be prepared to answer/discuss them.

If you're not able to answer a question, let the person know you will find the information and make sure you follow up.

Consider the audience and their experience with the topic (i.e. how familiar are they with the topic or the terms being used?).

Challenge the group:

Identify any third-party equipment to be inspected.

Ask the group if anyone has noticed or used equipment not meeting standards.

Ask if anyone in the group has been injured by third-party equipment or services and what was learned.

Review with all parties the common injuries and high-risk activities seen with the equipment.

Review the "Right to Refuse Unsafe Work" when faced with hazards that are not normal for the job.

