

CASE STUDY: ROWAN DRILLING



ABOUT ROWAN

Rowan is a global offshore contract driller committed to safe, reliable and efficient drilling of deep, demanding wells. The company's fleet includes four ultra-deepwater drillships and 25 jack-up rigs, 19 of which are high-specification jack-ups.

LIMITATIONS OF CONVENTIONAL LIFEBOAT TRAINING

Like most offshore oil and gas operators and drilling contractors, Rowan uses a combination of shore-based training and hands-on drills that consist of lowering, releasing, maneuvering and recovering lifeboats, to develop lifeboat coxswain competence. "The challenge with these conventional methods of training" according to Mike Lawson, Vice President, Health, Safety, Environment, Training and Marine Support, "is that the training does not expose coxswains to conditions which are likely to be experienced during a catastrophic event. It is critical that crew members know how to operate the single most important piece of life saving equipment on the rig under extreme conditions."

"It is critical that crew members know how to operate the single most important piece of life saving equipment on the rig under extreme conditions."

*Mike Lawson
Vice President, Health, Safety,
Environment, Training and Marine
Support*



CHANGING THE APPROACH TO LIFEBOAT COXSWAIN TRAINING

In 2015, Rowan became the first drilling contractor in the Gulf of Mexico to invest in a lifeboat simulation system. The system is customized to simulate an emergency evacuation using Rowan lifeboats on a Rowan jack-up rig. "The lifeboat simulator allows us to expose crew members to evacuation situations in extreme conditions," said Lawson. "The simulator is an innovative tool that enables our industry to improve training significantly."

The Marshall Islands Maritime Administration granted permission for Rowan to augment lifeboat coxswain training using the lifeboat simulator as an "alternate means of assuring competence." Their approval also permits a reduction in the frequency of lowering, releasing, maneuvering and recovering lifeboats during drills. "The Marshall Islands Administration has been very supportive of the use of the lifeboat simulator," said Lawson.

FLEXIBLE AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING APPROACH

Feedback from Rowan's lifeboat coxswains using the simulator has been very positive to date. "Initially, some operators were skeptical of this training method, in part because it was unfamiliar to them," said Lawson. "Following completion of initial training courses, most suggested they would like more of this training as they immediately saw the benefits." Rowan's lifeboat simulator has been developed to be packed and shipped to its regional offices to make the training available to rig crews locally. "We are very pleased with our decision to incorporate the lifeboat simulator into our global competence development program," said Lawson.

For more information: VIRTUALMARINE.CA

JULY 2017 © COPYRIGHT 2017 VIRTUAL MARINE

