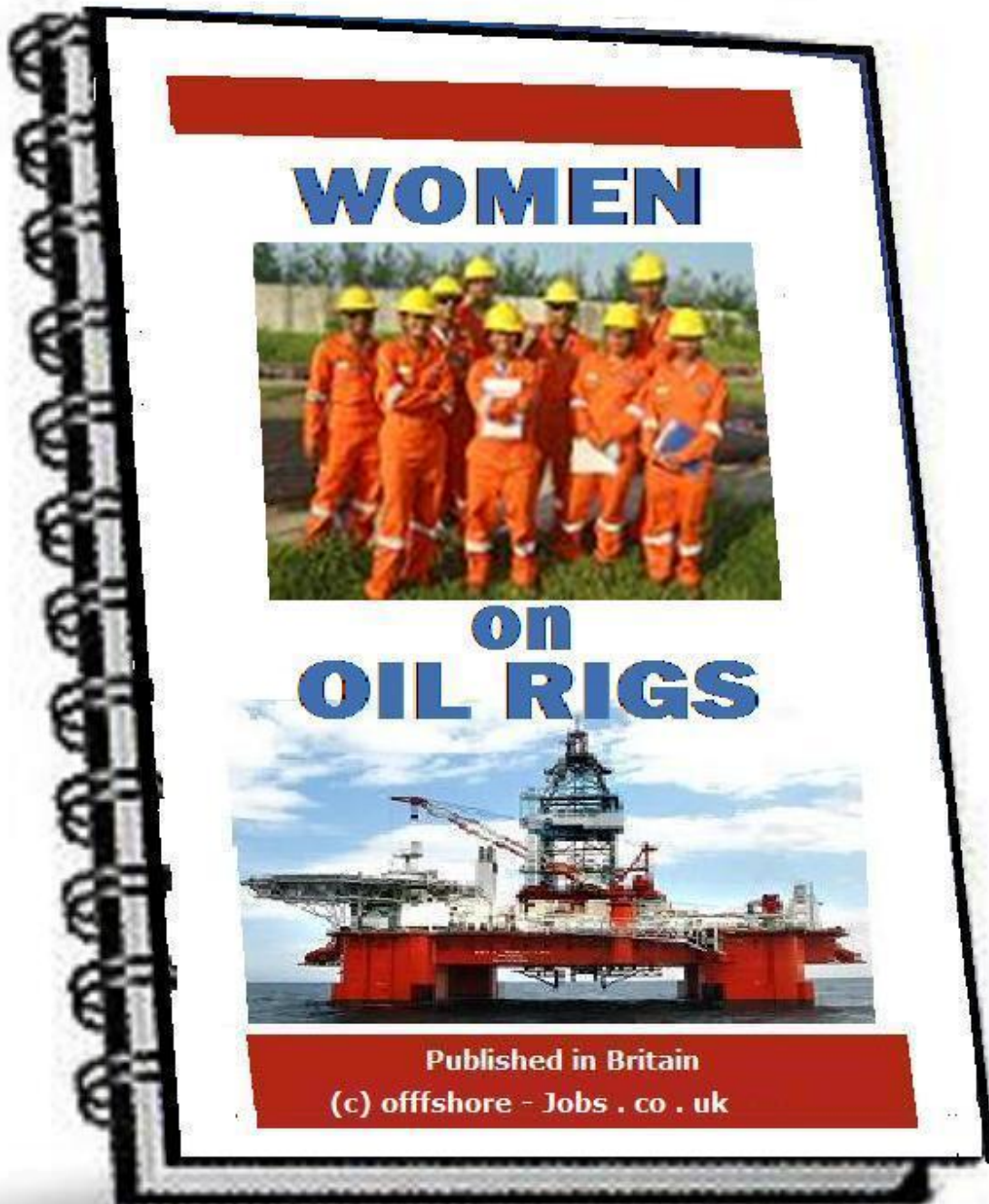


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Contents: Part 1. Women on the Rigs
Part 2. What it's Like on the Rigs



Women on the Rigs

Leanne's experiences, offshore Aberdeen

I was contracting on the same platform for 2 years, and truly had a most remarkable experience, tales too many to tell. I am an offshore female. No day was ever the same. I got on very well with all the guys. I started from the hook up and commissioning right through to start up phase. It was a real eye opener and I had the opportunity to cover a variety of jobs from RP Assistant to Production administration, IT Support and materials, so as you can see I was all over the place.

On a typical day, I would often be told, walk, don't run, but as I was careful, I would say I'm not running just walking very fast. The reply would be oh, ok then, on you go. I enjoyed making the guys laugh. They could be guys around me because I feel it is really a males' environment and they should be able to behave as they would without a female present. If a female cannot cut it or accept the language or the way the guys behave then they must up and chuck. Although I found the guys were generally well behaved, at times I would come across a fella from the old school who hated females offshore. Some I managed to swing

around and accept me and I didn't bend over backwards for anyone. After a tongue lashing from me, I guess they were feared not to be a wee bit friendlier... kidding. I don't honestly remember any that I couldn't swing around.

My trips were made up of 3 weeks offshore and 1 week onshore leave, which I loved, as I am also a South African so I knew no one onshore. The week was just enough to stock up and catch up on a bit of R&R. My days were normally from 7 to 7, but I usually called it a wrap at about 10 at night. I was also a day-rater, so no overtime. I was truly dedicated to the Platform.

The tables were turned on me cause some of the guys lose their marriages when working offshore, I lost mine as well. Originally I decided to go offshore to see for myself if I would let my ex work offshore. I was hooked 5 years ago, he since gave it up. I can now go ahead and pave my way in the patch.

The offshore sound effects were great. I would walk through the MCR (main control room) and miaows (meows) would follow me, due to my accent. Because I sometimes speak tannoys (announcements over the intercom, again my accent would come into play) they would echo the number for whoever it was that I was calling for.

Other times I would go out onto the decks if I was covering materials and work alongside the deck crew, just baby stuff you know. I don't have my banksman / slinger ticket, but am going for it. I feel it is important for guys and gals out there to be able to muck in.

I'm looking forward to my next project and have been told I will be expected to muck in, oh for sure! At last, I'm going to be treated as almost an equal, one of the guys. I'll be doing fire watch duties and all the rest of the stuff alongside everyone else.

I am proud of what I have achieved, not a great deal, but just being out there is an achievement in itself. I was broken hearted when I left but I guess that is what the offshore industry is all about. It is a very small world as I realized when my new back to back actually worked with me for a couple of trips previously.

At the moment because I am still fresh and green, I've decided that offshore is where I want to be. Everyone is natural, and aren't afraid of being peed off because they are where they don't want to be. Get out is what I say to them, be a landlubber because there are a lot of people who really want to be offshore and just aren't able to make it.

A lot of people who bring sunshine into the tea shack but are paid off, while the sad dreary chaps hang around. I saw them come and go over the 2 years. I fought to keep my job for almost a year, hanging on by my fingernails which is why I ain't got none left. At the end I was just tired and kinda gave up. Even though that door slammed shut, new ones have opened.

I had a lot of good people on my side, and for that I thank them.

Sorry, it's not a day story, more like an abbreviated 2 year story. There was always something to laugh about out there, even if I had to act the clown to catch that laugh. Everyone laughed from the OIM right down and through the ranks.

Cheers

Leanne

Aberdeen, Scotland

Hi again, I just started my new contract on the Piper Bravo, great atmosphere, friendly and am being shredded to bits as there are only 2

females on board, one stewardess and myself. I'm doing materials and it is really great! I am outside most of the day, and will share all the tales with you. The guys gave me a cream egg just to see how I would eat it. Cheeky bunch for sure.

See ya later and have a good leave.

Cheers

Leanne



Slick Oil Worker Scoops Miss GB Crown

An oil worker was crowned Miss Great Britain. Rachael Tennent, Miss Aberdeen, beat competition from 49 other finalists from throughout the UK.



Miss Great Britain Rachael Tennent

She landed the title after impressing the judges, who included Emmerdale actress Lucy Pargeter and racing pundit John McCririck.

The event at London's Grosvenor House hotel was hosted by acid-tongued US comedienne Joan Rivers.

Miss Tennent, 19 at the time, was brought up in the Cults area of Aberdeen and attended Albyn School for Girls.

According to the Sky News report she worked for oil company RBG Ltd and modelled part-time. *(credits: Sky News online)*.

Tolantino's experiences . . .

Reading your website made me realize how little people know of the number of females who have worked and are continually working on oil rigs, both on land and offshore.

I for one just joined an oilfield servicing company and as of the time I am typing this message, sitting on an offshore rig in eastern India. True that this job is dirty and messy. Not only that, it is also highly demanding with sleepless nights and pressure from every angle. There is no room for lagging behind due to the tremendous amount of dollars oil companies pay to rent oil rigs on a daily basis.

You are probably thinking all the more reason why a girl should not be in such an environment. There definitely has to be something more than the \$\$ keeping women on the rig. Some girls are driven. This is a job like no other which would push you to your limits and help you survive in situations which would almost break others. This is why the girls who work on rigs are so special.

There are some Arab countries which don't allow girls on rigs also, some rigs are just too crude and they don't allow girls on them but more often than not, oil rigs will accommodate any girl who has enough balls to step up to the plate. I also try to keep a blog of my experiences. Hope this has shed some more light on the topic.

Regards

Tolantino

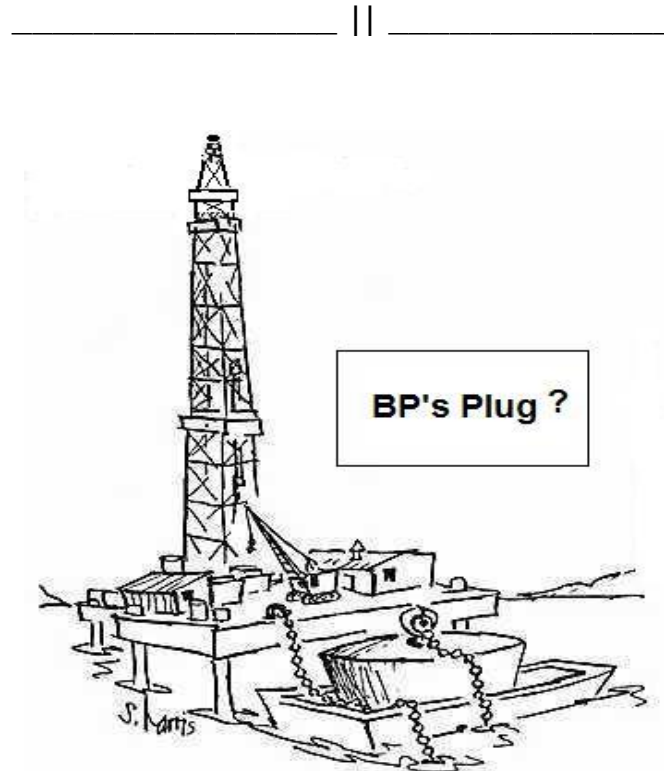
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Supergirlfriend's opinions

Your friend should be bloody proud of herself for being hired on an offshore rig. I have worked onshore for 2 years as a roughneck, and it's not been a walk in the park.

That particular company actually fired me today based on rumours. I also was hired on by an offshore drilling contractor as a Safety Advisor in SE Asia, only to be denied the job by the big boys upstairs because of the "male" attitude as i was told.

This job may not be glamorous, but it is rewarding and can be pretty fun sometimes. Disastrous life? That's relative. Being a roughneck has gotten me through university, paid off previous debts, afforded me loads of travel, and taught me an awful lot about myself and the behaviour of men. The only reason girls shouldn't be on rigs, is the attitude that girls shouldn't be on rigs. (if that makes sense?) That is what makes it a nightmare for us.





Working on an Offshore Oil Rig

The offshore oil and gas industry is booming right now as energy companies are required to drill in deeper and deeper waters to keep up with worldwide demand. High salaries can make up for the time spent away from home and there are more positions available than typical "roughneck" jobs.

Step 1

First learn about the industry as a whole. Even as the economy recovers the offshore oil and gas business continues to grow as companies such as Noble and Transocean drill in deeper and deeper waters around the globe to meet growing demands for oil and natural gas.

Find your niche in the industry. There are many layers of companies and individual skills that come together on a single rig. In many cases the rig is owned by one company and is under contract to a large company such as Chevron-Texaco or medium sized oil companies such as Chesapeake that has hired it.

The rig in turn, contracts everything from boats to cooking and laundry services to keep it going, while the oil company has to hire service companies such as Halliburton or Schlumberger to perform such services as pumping cement in the well, sending probes down hole to analyse rock formations for oil and gas, etc. Determine what jobs suit you and prepare a well written resume.

Step 2

Prepare your family for the change an oilfield job will bring. It cannot be stated enough that a person needs to be either single or have a stable home life before taking a job in the drilling industry that can potentially keep them away from home. Typically an oilfield worker that is working for the rig itself can expect to work a rotation of one to two or more weeks "on" and two weeks or more "off" on most jobs. On the rig shifts are typically in 8 to 12 hour "tours" pronounced strangely enough "towers". Service companies may or may not remain on the rig for the duration of the well. A mud - logger, who collects and analyzes the cuttings that come up from the drill bit, may remain on the rig for the duration of the well, while a wire line operator for a company like



Schlumberger, (pronounced slum ber jay) may be called to the well at specific points during the drilling to inspect rock layers for oil and gas after they have been drilled.

Step 3

If you are mechanically or technically inclined and don't mind hard work and travel, there are numerous employment positions offshore. Persons with engineering or science degrees may find it easier to start out higher on the salary scale for a service company such as Halliburton but even if you only have a skill such as automotive maintenance there are jobs on the rig that a person could get without prior experience. Usually a person working on the rig crew (without any prior oil field experience) will have to start out at the bottom of the scale as a roustabout. A roustabout does whatever odd jobs around the rig he is directed to by the "tool pusher" or rig boss or by the driller or other higher ranking crew member. He may be asked to paint, sandblast, carry bags of drilling mud, all the lowest jobs.

Step 4

Be prepared to eat humble pie for several months. A crew member can work his way up the ladder, even to the top job of tool pusher with many more years of experience. The tool pusher, or rig boss, has usually held every position on a rig crew at least once in his life. For a mechanically inclined person the job of motorman is to keep all the motors and equipment maintained and running.



Prospective oilfield workers need to read up on the industry and get a feel for where they may belong. books such as " A Primer of Oil Well Drilling" are a good start. While rig crews, rougnecks, are still mostly a men's only club, there are exceptions. Today there are a few women employed working for service companies such as Baker Hughes, Halliburton, Weatherford and Schlumberger.

Try and find the area where your skills will match the position. If you are a technical geek who also doesn't mind getting his hands dirty then there are technical jobs keeping up rig electronics and operation well logging and mud logging equipment.

Sites such as offshore-jobs.co.uk have links to job postings, within their "Complete Offshore Oil Rig Handbook", which comes together with a huge employers contact directory with actual real-time contact details, such as name, phone, fax, etc.



Entry level jobs that can get you in the door with minimal skills are jobs such as mud logger trainee, sample catcher, roustabout, galley hand, etc. Jobs for those with chemistry experience are those such as the mud engineer for a company such as Newpark Drilling Fluids. He is responsible for making large batches of drilling fluid in tanks, formulating it for the needs of the hole depth, etc, using chemistry skills and equipment. Almost any job working on an offshore oil drilling rig, from rig electronic technician to mud engineer will require manual labour and heavy lifting.

Step 5

Prepare to relocate upon getting hired. At first you will probably need to move to where there is a hub of offshore activity, and a concentration of drilling companies, such Aberdeen Scotland, for the UK North Sea. Companies are usually not willing to pay service hands to fly to home but roughnecks and drillers working directly for the rig, as they work up the career ladder and become more valuable, may be able to claim transportation to a home that is somewhere far inland.

It is different for Service hands employed by companies that provide essential services to rigs such as well logging, they are usually "on call" 24-7 and will need to have a travel bag ready and be able to be at the dock or heliport with very short notice.



A rig overseas may have workers from a couple dozen countries onboard. Experienced workers who have worked

their way up the ladder may enjoy thirty days off for working thirty days, effectively making salaries, (paid in US dollars), of \$150,000 or more for half a years work. Cold calling on service and drilling companies works and so does sending cv's/resumes that indicate you are willing to do whatever it takes, travel, working from the bottom up, etc to become a valuable employee. This is not an industry for lazy people so if you are looking for a cushy job where you can put you feet on a desk, this is not it.

Step 6

For more oilfield employment resources and job postings you should get hold of "The Complete Offshore Rig Employment Handbook" together with the "Directory of Rig Employers" as a bonus, because it contains over 1000 actual real-time employer contacts, UK and Worldwide, with names, phone numbers, emails, etc. both are in pdf eBook format and can be downloaded from Offshore-Jobs.co.uk.



There are no stores out here. On your first offshore hitch take along enough toiletries, cigarettes (even if you don't smoke you can trade or sell them or bribe a seasoned employee to teach you part of his job. Take a prepaid Visa card or prepaid offshore phone card since cell phones often do not work out on the rigs, but Offshore phone services such as Petrocom provide pay phones on most rigs.

++ An offshore rig is treated under maritime laws as a sea going vessel and protocol on board can resemble that of a commercial ship, with the toolpusher or rig boss and the company man (drilling company representative) acting as co-captains of rig and drilling operations and all

activity directed through them. Coast guard law is in effect and lawbreakers are turned over to them.

Rigs now test all employees regularly for drugs, if you don't want to give up recreational drug use, don't even try and get a job on a rig. You'll be found out and swiftly sacked.

Be prepared to have your home life and affairs on order. You may be stuck on a rig for weeks unless it is a life threatening emergency.

While safety is a priority of today's oil rigs a person should have life insurance especially if they have dependents.

Energy companies have started throwing doors open to women in the male-dominated oil and gas industry. Be it rigs (on land or sea), drilling or exploratory work, women are making their mark in frontline operational and engineering roles. Many leading Oil Companies take pride in saying that they have a much better male/female ratio than ever before, and companies have started deploying women in many challenging offshore assignments.

Schlumberger for example has about 100 hardcore women technical staff engaged in various roles like research and tool installation. There are about 30 to 40 women technocrats offshore, who spend 24x7 days on rigs, matching their male counterparts. They work in the sea bases of Mumbai, Rajahmundry and Kakinada and land rigs of Assam, Rajasthan and Gujarat, a Schlumberger field engineer said.

Some have been hired from IIT, Senior field engineer Neha Sahdev, who has completed three years with Schlumberger, deems field exposure necessary to move up the career ladder. She also has led a crew, which has motivated her to perform better.

Acceptance levels have gone up and there is ample scope for women in this profession

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