

Planning and Communicating for Conducting Safe SIMOPS

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Abstract

Each day around the world, in both the offshore oil and gas industry and other marine industries, there are ongoing Simultaneous Operations (SIMOPS). These can range from something as common as a crew change with a crew boat, to a much larger scale involving multiple, heavy construction assets and personnel. While some of these SIMOPS are so commonplace they are all but virtually overlooked by most, all must be addressed if only offshore between the vessels involved for the safety of all personnel.

When working on any offshore project where a possible SIMOPS situation can occur, we should think of SIMOPS in the terms of “Sharing Information Maximizes Our Personnel Safety”. With this stated, a plan can be created by following a process outlined as SIMOPS - **S**tudy the project, **I**dentify possible SIMOPS, **M**eeet with all Parties Involved, **O**rganize a **P**lan, and **S**hare the plan/Information. This practice should begin at project inception and is repeated throughout the entire process until completion. Thus making the SIMOPS plan dynamic and causes communication between all parties, document control, tracking, and distribution essential.

This paper will focus on the strengths of creating and implementing a SIMOPS plans for an organization as well as the downfalls to not including them in your offshore strategy. By learning to identify possible SIMOPS situations for your project early on in the development phase, you will be able to distinguish those possible situations which may cause costly delays or worse, cause serious harm or injury to your offshore personnel.

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