



Temporary Equipment as a Potential Source of Ignition

The following safety awareness alert has been provided by one of MR Horizon Resources International's Client. MR Horizon Resources International would like to thank the Client for sharing the information.

What happened:

MR Group were conducting an inspection during the reactivation of a tender drilling rig prior to an upcoming drilling campaign. It was noted that solids control equipment had been installed in the heavy tool store area of the tender. The nature of operation of the solids control equipment, by definition, created a hazardous area.



The vessel was classed under ABS rules, which stated that "Drilling tenders may temporarily install equipment on deck which creates hazardous areas. If any of the tender's intended modes of operation include hazardous equipment, arrangements are to be made to accommodate and operate such equipment safely. To this end, the area where such equipment will be installed is to be considered hazardous and electrical equipment, ventilation, and access to adjacent spaces in the area are to be in accordance with ABS Rules. Alternatively, if the area where temporary hazardous equipment will be installed is not in compliance with the Rules, a procedure for making this area suitable for such equipment is to be developed and submitted for review."

What was done:

The classification society was consulted and a plan implemented, making the solids control room a temporary hazardous area suitable for the intended operations. The plan included a



review of lighting, PA/GA speakers and ventilation arrangements. A review of the control panels identified inconsistencies due to equipment modification and incomplete certification. Updating of the rig's hazardous area drawing and hazardous area equipment register was also required.



Lessons Learned:

This example demonstrates the need to assess an area every time a change in that area takes place.