Safety Clicks

Learning from others' mistakes

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Leasing TDI Vessels– Collaboration with partners

By Shannon Smith

TDI Brooks has a long standing tradition of partnerships with academic institutions for research and development.

Often, a company or university will want to lease a TDI vessel for their own technical work. Most of these are GERG buoy rotations, which we have done for many years. Others may want to do environmental sampling but have their own technical staff do the collecting and processing.

However, just because a client is essentially "renting" our vessel and crew doesn't mean our safety system is no longer in place. Agreeing to operate under our safety system is a requirement of these contracts.

UT students processing a piston core. Each team collected and processed its own core.

The First Mate is responsible for reviewing our policies and procedures with the clients to ensure they are following simple safety protocols– like wearing specified PPE while working on the back deck, knowing the current year's safe lifting color and how to identify gear that is OK for use and gear that is "out of service".

Most of this is covered generally in the vessel orientations, but certain policies will need special emphasis depending on the type of work the client will be doing.

In the following article, you can learn about a project conducted by the University of Texas at Austin on board the TDI vessel Brooks McCall.

Keep an eye on our guests, and if you see a hazard, speak up and STOP WORK. You might be the only one who sees it...

The **First Mate** is responsible for reviewing our policies and procedures with the clients to ensure they are following simple safety protocols. This may mean a **Pre-Start Safety Meeting** or a **Contractor Safety Meeting** depending on the type of work.

Brooks McCall Hosts UT Geology and Geophysics Camp

The official name of the camp is the University of Texas Marine Geology and Geophysical Field Course and 2018 marks the eleventh year of collecting data and training students in field acquisition and processes.

The area of exploration is in the Trinity River Paleovalley, southwest of Galveston Bay, where the Trinity river used to flow when the sea level was lower. John Goff, senior research scientist and instructor says, "One of the things we are trying to discover is how much sand is in the river valley itself. The BOEM (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) is particularly interested in cataloging sand resources on the coast. This is a potential place where folks could go and recover those sand resources for beach replenishment projects, so that's kind of exciting."

TOP Safety Card Hits

(Fleetwide last month)

Safety Attitude	**5**
Maintenance/ Inspections	**1**
Positive Comments	**1**

Brooks McCall Hosts UT Geology and Geophysics Camp

Goff says his favorite part of the camp is, “The students, definitely! They’re always eager, they’re always enthusiastic and it’s just so much fun working with them.”

For many of the students, this was their first taste of field work and the first time they experienced data collection first hand. The purpose of the course is to teach the students how to run a research survey from conception and planning all the way to the presentation of data findings and conclusions.

On the final day, the team participated in collecting core samples under the direction of an experienced TDI coring team, led by Andrew Howard. His biggest concern working with the students was the same as if teaching someone new to the company. He wanted to ensure they were properly supervised at all times, but specifically when rigging the core.

The critical things are remembering the piston pin, because without that, when the core triggers and we began to retrieve it, that pin is the only thing connecting the coring rig to the boat. The other thing to watch is installing the safety pin on the trigger. That pin prevents the trigger from activating while we are working near the core head. It is literally the last thing we take off and acts like the safety on a gun.

Catherine Ross said, “I really liked doing the coring today. So, we collected a whole bunch of seismic and cored four sites that we thought looked really interesting. Looking at the reflection data doesn’t really excite me that much, but when you can actually ground—truth it to what the sediments are, it’s really cool! Today we had a few really cool results, so I’m really excited about processing those.”

She says the crew was especially patient with her many questions. “Today I could NOT get how the piston core worked! So I just bothered the crew forever—in the rain! — and made sure I understood what was going on. **So ask the questions you think are dumb because chances are someone else doesn’t get it.”**