

Can ScanTech's award-winning PyroSentry system change the way offshore safety is managed?

The changing shape of offshore safety solutions

METHANOL IS ONE of the biggest risk factors where offshore fires are concerned; it's the most commonly used hydrate inhibitor because of its relatively low cost and high thermodynamic effectiveness, which means it is stored offshore in reasonably high quantities to maximise output. It is a colourless, toxic and highly flammable liquid and can travel considerable distance to the source of ignition, burning with a colourless flame, making manual fire detection difficult in the very initial stages.

ScanTech Offshore's award-winning PyroSentry system can be installed and running in as little as six hours. It is available with a bundled option to avoid any leakage of methanol to the rig structure, provides both audible and visual alarms and is a 100 per cent independent system. In addition to the base system, AR AFFF-equipped fire-fighting trolley units can also be supplied as a secondary protection measure, together with a thermal imaging camera to support methanol fire assessment and safety, providing a complete offshore solution.

Heralded as the future in offshore safety solutions, the IADC has recently championed PyroSentry's groundbreaking innovation with the presentation of an Associate Member Award in its North Sea Chapter series.

Unlike any other safety product currently in operation, PyroSentry has an automated



Garden - "It's been a long time in the making"

fire detection system with suppression functionality built in.

So how does it work? Based on a protection method, the PyroSentry mechanism essentially uses specialist Fire Trace Detection Tubing® (FDT) to encompass the containment area of hazardous chemicals.

The FDT is charged to 12 Bar with dry N2 nitrogen. In the event of a fire, the FDT tube will burst, automatically triggering an alcohol-resistant aqueous film-forming foam, suppressing any fire within just seconds of it starting and raising an alarm.

Not only does this protect hazardous and highly flammable chemicals, it reduces the risk for offshore crews and gives response teams greater chance of gaining control of the situation, it also allows for enhanced efficiency and less interruption to operational productivity if and when a fire does break out.

Safety and efficiency are the two factors at the heart of PyroSentry's development and it's easy to see why the two go hand-in-hand. An increased safety solution that allows an offshore installation to carry greater quantities of methanol and other hazardous chemicals, because they are always protected, allows for less interruption in drilling capacity.

The suppression technology that the system uses has actually been around for some 20 years and has been used in various other guises and functions throughout that time; but it's only in more recent years that ScanTech Offshore has tapped into the possibility of employing it in the search for a more robust methanol protection solution.

Robbie Garden, business development manager at ScanTech Offshore, spotted the opportunity for channeling the existing technology into a product that could change the shape of safety standards across the industry. After two years of advanced development, the team was confident that this innovation could detect leaks and suppress ignited gases within seconds. And so PyroSentry was born.



PyroSentry was put to the test by some twenty plus third-party independents to secure accreditations.