



## QHSE - Contractor Participation

**One of the essentials of effective Health & Safety management is good communication and information dissemination to the Contractor community.**

### Benefits of close co operation

A genuine partnership between WWG, its Clients and the Contracting community is critical to creating an effective safety culture within our organization. An organisation committed to consultation and involvement is likely to see a downturn in injuries and working days lost, as well as productivity and a more motivated work force.

There are a number of reasons for this. Often Contractors know best about what health and safety issues affect them in the workplace and how best to deal with them, and therefore they may be in a position to help the WWG develop safe and practical systems of work.

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## Fishy problem

**On a recent fishing job on the Sedco 704 in the North Sea, Colin North, Wellwise Group Contractor reported this fishy problem.**

During workover, when bleeding off at the choke – soon after latching a production riser package, the adjustable choke plugged up and had to be shut down to clear it. Inside a conger eel was found – probably about 3 foot long originally, the head of which had tried (successfully) to hold about 2000 psi at the choke!

Shame there were no chips to go with it !!!



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By empowering Contractors and getting them involved in safety decision-making, WWG demonstrates that it shows that we take Contractor health, safety and wellbeing seriously. This in turn encourages Contractors to raise concerns and offer solutions. The knock on effect is influencing health and safety through positive actions.

So, in summary, effective consultation on health and safety can result in-

- Healthier and safer workplace – because Contractor input is valuable to identify hazards, assess risks and develop ways to control or remove risks;
- Better decisions about health and safety – because they are based on the input and experience of a range of people within the organization, who have extensive knowledge of their own job and the business.
- Stronger commitment to implementing decisions or actions – because Contractors have been involved in reaching these decisions
- Greater co-operation and trust – because WWG its Clients and Contractors talk to each other, listen to each other and gain a better understanding of each other's views
- Greater awareness of workplace risks among all Contractors leading to better risk controls and,
- Multi level Problem solving

In addition to health and safety benefits, the business benefits of improved involvement include:-

- Fewer working days lost due to reduction in risk and accidents
- Increased job satisfaction, resulting in improved retention of skilled workers
- Improvements in overall efficiency, quality and productivity

### Key barriers to participation

Despite the ethical and economic benefits of closer engagement with the workforce there is still a barrier to this actually happening. HSE researchers have identified the main causes:-

- Difficulty in understanding safety legislation, regulations and requirements – many perceive the whole subject to be frighteningly complex;
- Cost concerns – there is a tendency, especially with small businesses to see health and safety as a barrier to quick and efficient working.
- Organisational culture – contractors may be reluctant to raise health and safety concerns through fear of losing their jobs or being NRB'd. In a macho culture some may perceive an interest in health and safety to be “soft” or “weak”.
- Attitude – some people may be reluctant to take advice on their behaviour or fail to realise when their own practices could be improved.

The Wellwise Group have several tools in place to aid effective consultation:-

- a) Risk Identification System.** An accident/incident/near miss reporting system where the sharing of information can help reduce further occurrences. These are posted on our website for reference.
- b) Safety Alerts** – Industry Safety alerts are also posted on our website for information
- c) Discussion Forum** – Available to all contractors to air their views on any subject they wish.
- d) No blame culture** – Wellwise Group Contractors should always feel they can report any safety incident they see or are involved in offshore. We are always in support of justifiable cases.

Wellwise Group promotes and encourages community engagement via “theClub” with both Clients and Contractors; there is a dedicated email address for such communications [theclub@wellwisegroup.com](mailto:theclub@wellwisegroup.com)



# Contractor working in Iraq



Street life



Sandstorm



Winter and summer



Paul Goodwin with Iraqi oil workers

## **Intrepid Wellwise Group Contractor Paul Goodwin volunteered to do a job in Iraq.**

Paul joined Wellwise at the outset in 1988 – he had worked with David and Glenn offshore and onshore for many years previously. He started his oilfield career with Flopetrol in 1970.

When recently asked if he would undertake a job in Iraq – he only had to think about it for a few seconds.....although his wife had a few reservations!

Paul is working for a Canadian based oil company operating out of Kurdistan in Northern Iraq.

Paul is living and working in Portacabin accommodation with temperatures of +45 degrees during the day, and +20-25 degrees at night. Generally though the working conditions are good, and he says the people are “very, very friendly and helpful”. There are five expats on the rig, the rest are Chinese and Kurds, totalling with the military around 150 personnel. Telecommunications within and outside the country are excellent but there are no land lines at the rig site.

Desert locations are prone to sand storms as the photos left illustrate. The huge amount of sand which arrives with the storm, simply just blows away again!

However it is not always hot, they do have seasons with snow in the winter (see picture left).

Luckily the work is based many miles north of the current troubles, and although the security around the camp is very very high, there is little feeling of threat, and the local people are generally trying to live normal lives.

Paul tells me he would be more than happy to go back and do another job there.



# H1N1 flu – international travel advice

**You will all have heard about the H1N1 Flu Pandemic in one way or another. Until it affects you personally you have probably only been paying it cursory attention. It is nevertheless a threat to be aware of. Although symptoms of H1N1 flu have generally been mild, a small number of patients will develop more serious illness. Certain groups of people, and people with other health conditions, such as heart or lung disease, are at increased risk.**

H1N1 flu, like seasonal flu, is easily spread by tiny droplets in a cough or a sneeze. By taking a few simple steps you can help reduce the risk of getting it, and to stop the virus spreading. Catch sneezes in a paper tissue – only use it once – and bin it immediately and wash your hands.

## Catch it, bin it, kill it

There is a wealth of information via the internet relating to “Symptoms checker”, help line telephone numbers and information on travelling abroad.

If you are resident in the UK visit [www.direct.gov/swineflu](http://www.direct.gov/swineflu). This will give you latest news, and details of the National Pandemic Flu Service which is being launched. This service is made up of a website and call centre which will quickly be able to tell you if you have H1N1 flu. If you do, you will be given an authorization number that a “flu friend” or relative who does not have H1N1 flu can use to pick up antivirals from local antiviral collection points.

### H1N1 Flu Symptoms

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle Aches

Advice if you think you have H1N1 flu symptoms is:-

- a. Stay at home
- b. Contact one of the following advice telephone numbers for further advice
- c. Have a pen and paper handy to note down instructions

Current UK Helplines:-

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>England</b>    | 0800 1 513100 National Pandemic Flu Service<br>or 0800 1 513 513 helpline |
| <b>Scotland</b>   | 08454 24 24 24 NHS 24 Scotland  |
| <b>Wales</b>      | 0845 46 47 NHS Direct Wales   |
| <b>N. Ireland</b> | 0800 0514 142 (Monday to Friday only)<br>NI Swine Flu Helpline            |

## British Nationals overseas

The Foreign Office has provided a dedicated free phone number for all British Nationals overseas to call if they are concerned about the current H1N1 flu outbreak. **00 44 207 928 1010**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is not recommending travel restrictions related to the outbreak of the influenza A(H1N1) virus. Today, global travel is commonplace and large numbers of people move around the world for business and leisure. Limiting travel and imposing travel restrictions would have very little effect on stopping the virus from spreading, but would be highly disruptive to the global community. However some airlines are restricting travel for passengers who are showing obvious signs/symptoms of the virus.

Influenza A(H1N1) has already been confirmed in many parts of the world. The global response now focuses on minimizing the impact of the virus through the rapid identification of cases, and providing patients with appropriate medical care, rather than on stopping its spread internationally.



Although identifying signs and symptoms of influenza in travellers can help track the path of the outbreak, it will not reduce the spread of influenza, as the virus can be transmitted from person to person before the onset of symptoms.

Travellers can protect themselves and others by following simple prevention practices that apply while travelling and in daily life.



# Girls' day out

**The Wellwise Girls' had their annual day out at the Lowestoft Air Show this year. Hospitality was booked at the Hotel Victoria on the Lowestoft Esplanade (pictured top right).**

We all arrived spot on 11:30 am, just as the Red Arrows were starting their welcome programme. Unfortunately half way through the afternoon there was a thunderstorm which stopped flying for an hour and a half – however, the organisers did make an effort to do a final hour finale to finish the day.

The Hotel Victoria was an ideal venue as the organisers seemed to use the hotel as a pinpoint for the centre display with air acrobats taking place right in front of our eyes – some at very low level. It was very impressive.

Unfortunately because of the weather the Battle of Britain Memorial flypast by a Hurricane, Lancaster and Spitfire did not take place – they are obviously not very waterproof these days!! However the highlights were the Red Arrows, F16 fighter (deafening), Apache helicopter and The Blades.

During the thunderstorm Lesley and Helen managed to meet some of the pilots/parachutists who came by the hotel – see photo opposite.



# Club communiqué

Coen Schoon is the proud father of a new baby girl – Jule. His partner Jasmine gave birth on Wednesday, 15th July, 2009, at 2.07 am in the morning (GMT). Coen and Jasmine live in Holland.

All the girls from the Wellwise Group had a day out at the Lowestoft Air Show last week, see article above.

Ellie's replacement as Front Office Administrator is Helen Pearce shown opposite. Ellie has left us to work for the Norfolk Constabulary in their Emergency Call Centre. Please email Helen and keep her updated with your new or refresher certs , etc.

Wellwise Group have made a donation to a member of staff from PNS (UK) Limited to support "Age Concern" and "Help the Aged". June Milner will be taking part in Trek China 17-25 October 2009, in order to raise much needed funds. All funds raised by June will help run vital projects which drastically improve the quality of life for older people not only in the UK but also overseas. Further information is available from [www.helptheaged.org.uk](http://www.helptheaged.org.uk)



The quarterly news feed from the Wellwise Group

The best people offshore

Tel: +44 (0) 1603 777980 | Web: [www.wellwisegroup.com](http://www.wellwisegroup.com) | Email: [theclub@wellwisegroup.com](mailto:theclub@wellwisegroup.com)

# Competency Scheme... gathering momentum

**As many readers will no doubt be aware, we have been operating an SQA approved paper portfolio competency scheme for several years now. The exciting news is that we have now rolled out the totally web based version of the scheme to cover the same eight disciplines.**

The new web based portal is a step change easier for candidates to work with since cross referencing has now been totally taken care of electronically. No longer will it be necessary for candidates to ship heavy batches of documentation half way across the world since it can now be uploaded directly to our servers across the internet.

The user interface is so very simple and straight forward that candidates are finding it very easy to follow and they are all provided with an instant visual progress report on their submissions, and "still to do" items of evidence, questions and witness testimonies. By the time this newsletter is published new demo video clips will be available on our web site to demonstrate the ease of using our new web based competency system. Log on to our website with your Username and Password and have a look !!

In the last month we have been meeting with many of our clients in the eastern hemisphere from Europe , Africa, Australia and South East Asia. In all cases we were able to demonstrate our competency system and all that it entails. All of our clients, without exception were very impressed with our web based offering and confirmed that contractor competency as attested by an independent third party authority, in our case the SQA (Scottish Qualifications Authority), is high on their list of priorities in forth coming months.

We all know that having a certificate of competency doesn't make you the best field operator in the world but it may well mean the difference between you going offshore and not going offshore before too much longer. BP in Angola have already insisted that nobody will be allowed to go offshore for them without being enrolled on a third party authorised and accredited competency system. Other countries are expected to follow suit very quickly.

We have also rolled out the system as a product offering to clients with a positive start being made in the first two months of it's release. Although originally developed as an internal tool for our own contractors, the power of the system soon became evident , and



as a consequence we have now made it part of our client service provision for use by new and existing customers. For further details please contact [support@wellwisegroup.com](mailto:support@wellwisegroup.com)

We have also improved our search engine optimisation for **oilfield competency** both generically and for specific disciplines. Try googling oilfield competency and check out the new splash pages across the range of our services.

Reed our blog at [www.wellwise.wordpress.com](http://www.wellwise.wordpress.com)  
or perhaps twitter on [www.twitter.com/wellwisegroup](http://www.twitter.com/wellwisegroup)





# “TAXI” !!!!!

**Very often and all around the world, contractors are required to get into Taxi's as part of their travel in relation to work assignments.**

Road travel is arguably and statistically amongst the most hazardous method of transport . For this reason, responsible taxi procurement and driver time management should be high on your selection criteria list .

Some of the following points may be useful to you :-

- Make sure that when engaging the services of a taxi overseas that the Taxi company is registered or officially licensed with the local authority.
- Try and record the license plate number of the cab and the company before embarking on a journey.
- Ensure that the driver knows where the destination is prior to getting in the cab
- Agree a fixed price for the journey whenever possible to include all road tolls levied. Otherwise ensure that the meter is zero'd prior to starting your journey
- Establish whenever possible how many hours the driver has been driving already before you get in the cab. This should not exceed eight ( including your intended journey ) with a minimum of eight off prior to commencing his/her shift.

- If you begin to feel unsafe or uncertain of your taxi drivers ability to drive safely make your feelings known to the driver in a calm but firm manner. If poor driving persists, ask the driver to stop at the next taxi rank/town and make a new arrangement. Its simply not safe to do otherwise !.
- If you suspect that the condition of the vehicle is un roadworthy . Tell the driver straight away and insist on changing vehicles. Don't sit in silence hoping that it will all be ok.
- If you are travelling with a group, don't overload the cab with luggage and passengers. Either arrange a mini van or two taxi's
- Respect the drivers property, don't get into a cab under the influence of alcohol or subject the driver to a torrent of abuse .
- Driving standards and road conditions are not the same around the globe although your safety remains of paramount importance wherever you may find yourself. Don't compromise your safety standards in the face of sub standard driving ability, driver time management or road conditions.

On the other side of the fence, we have asked our main taxi subcontractor Maple Travel to write a few notes on issues affecting people taken to and collected from regularly used airports. Some of what's written here could apply to all contractors, not just those that happen to live relatively close to our office in the UK

Maple Travel Have a range of vehicles available to them both company owned, and contractor owned, to seat 1 – 8 passengers including lots of bags and equipment so can cover most needs.

*“By maintaining a stable pool of drivers we feel that we can provide a more personal and professional service to companies such as Wellwise, as the Management know who they are dealing with and the contractors more often than not will recognise their driver straight away on arrival at their airport.*



As a progressive company we are always looking for ways to improve our service and the following key points may help all parties involved to make this possible

- When being picked up from home or a hotel, if the taxi is not waiting outside ready at the arranged pick up time phone immediately to check it is coming .... If there has been a mistake we have time to correct it, if the taxi is nearby that is not a problem

When arriving at airports please follow these suggestions

Norwich – If your driver is not inside the terminal please go to the pick up point in the main car park.

London Stansted, London Luton, London Gatwick North & South, London Heathrow T1,T2,T4,T5 driver will be near Costa Coffee. It is an easy place away from the main arrivals area to meet. London Heathrow T3 we will be at the end of the arrivals gangway.

- If you know your flight is delayed please let us know as soon as possible as this helps us be on time but keeps waiting time to a minimum.

Please keep in mind that if your flight has landed early as some do we are not late as we aim to be there for flight arrival time and allow for your bags to come to you.

It is helpful if mobile phone numbers are made available at the time of booking though we appreciate some would rather not give out their details."



## Photo competition winner

**Again a good response for the photo competition this quarter which included many photos from Paul Goodwin from his recent trip to Iraq. Not the winner this time Paul, but you can guarantee your photos will be gratefully used in our annual calendar.**

Jules Colby has also sent us in some great crew photos (we love this type of picture) which we have used on our website already and hope to use for other Wellwise Group illustrations.

However the winner this quarter is Emmanoyil Petrakis with his photo of entitled Rousia Sakhalin shown on the front cover. Emmanoyil will receive an iPod for his photo.

Keep the photos coming, we hope to run this competition for the remainder of this year.

