

From:

> xxxxxx

> email

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> Subject:

> TAQA North Blowout

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> Message Body:

> Safety @ TAQA

> a) failure to report, b) failure to have adequate assurance processes
> surrounding contractor certification and supervision.

>

> The National

> More drillers in risky business

>

> Tamsin Carlisle

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> . Last Updated: August 15. 2010 8:20PM UAE / August 15. 2010 4:20PM

> GMT

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> **...Taqa North, a larger company controlled by the Abu Dhabi**

> **Government, had a similar problem last year in the Canadian province**

> **of Alberta. A blowout occurred during maintenance work on a well about**

> **500 metres from a main road and 4km from the town of Crossfield, a**

> **prairie farming community.**

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> The deadly gas in the well inherited by Taqa through a corporate
> takeover contained 42 per cent hydrogen sulphide. The hazard to
> passing traffic was sufficient for Taqa to ask local authorities to
> intercept school buses and send them on a wide detour. After
> implementing its emergency response plan and, a day later, plugging
> the well, Taqa investigated the incident. It found no hazard signs
> posted on pipes and valves and that workers had missed warnings of an
> impending problem. The company also said it had not supervised work
performed by a contractor.

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> Regulators blamed the accident on "human error arising from a lack of
> oversight and supervision of maintenance crews".

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> "The experience of external personnel contracted to perform tests on
> the Taqa well is of concern," the Energy Resources Conservation Board
> in Alberta wrote in a report, which nevertheless found Taqa had not
> contravened any regulatory requirements.

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> **Experience counts: "Almost all blowouts occur because of human error,"**
> **Mike Miller, the chief executive of the Canadian well-control firm**
> **Safety Boss, told Canada's oilweek magazine last month. "It's almost**
> **always when there's a rig over the hole. . That's where the human error**
> **takes place."**

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> Taqa has agreed to work with the regulator on safety improvements.

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> Leroy McKinnon, a Taqa North spokesman, said the company held an
> emergency-response training exercise at least once a year.
> Fortuitously, last year's exercise took place just a week before the
blowout.

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> "It taught us that the training does benefit the company because all

> our people were in place. We've got to be on top of things and be on our
> toes,"
> he said.
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> Taqa North, a unit of Abu Dhabi National Energy Company, was formed
> just two years ago. But more experienced companies have also
> encountered problems recently while drilling in new situations.
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> In Pennsylvania, EOG Resources had a blowout at a shale-gas well in
> June that the US state's environmental protection department said
> could have been "catastrophic". On June 3, the out-of-control well
> expelled gas and chemicals-laced water for 16 hours. The Houston-based
> EOG is a large independent oil and gas producer that has drilled hundreds
> of wells.
>
> Last month, the department fined EOG \$400,000 after experts blamed the
> blowout on human error and procedures that fell short of industry best
> practices.
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> **"This incident was preventable and should have never occurred," said**
> **John Hanger, the department's secretary.**
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>
> Dit is een bericht naar aanleiding van het invullen van het
> contactformulier. <http://www.gasalarm2.nl>