

INTERAGENCY BOLT ACTION TEAM MEETING

On August 23, 2016, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Director Brian Salerno met with 17 federal agency partners of the Interagency Bolt Action Team to discuss safety concerns relating to bolt failures offshore and to explore ways to collaborate towards resolution.

Background

BSEE leadership and staff have been working to address a recurring problem that raises serious safety and environmental hazard concerns - faulty connector bolts in safety critical equipment currently deployed offshore. Steps already taken include work with original equipment manufacturers, a BSEE Safety Alert, a quality control study, and a call to industry to develop better standards and practices and to be proactive in remedying the defects seen in bolt failures. In July 2016, Director Brian Salerno established the Interagency Bolt Action Team, an interagency group focusing on the subsea bolt issue and the risks it poses to offshore operations.

Introductory Telecon

Today's call provided participants with background on the offshore bolt failure situation and was an opportunity for BSEE to answer any initial questions the team posed. The Director described the mission and roles of the bureau and highlighted the importance of sharing lessons learned from incidents across industry sectors. He expressed his appreciation to all of the team members for stepping forward to participate in this journey.

"We know we have a problem, and suspect it may be a more widespread problem," Salerno said. "Involving the federal family is our best chance for getting to the bottom of the bolt problem and why I decided to assemble this Action Team."

Mr. Doug Morris, Chief of Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs provided some technical aspects of what we know currently and what we need to figure out about bolt failures. He pointed to engineering analysis reports linked on BSEE's website at www.bsee.gov/bolts and asked team members to share similar data from their respective agency investigations.

What's Next

BSEE plans to jumpstart the analysis of the knowledge gap at next week's "Critical Safety Equipment Failures Forum" on August 29th in Washington, DC. All Action Team members were encouraged to register and attend the forum. The next team meeting is tentatively scheduled for late September 2016.