

Murray S. Ritchie

Biography

Industry and Consultancy 1990 to 2015

Shortly after leaving Saudi Arabia and returning to Canada, the Gulf War started and Iraq invaded Kuwait setting the country a blaze with over 700 oilwell fires. Having gained middle east experience in Saudi and picking up a working knowledge of Arabic, Murray was recruited by Safety Boss Canada to become part of the first team to travel to Kuwait onboard an American Airforce C-5 Galaxy. This would mark the beginning of a career in the energy sector cross training as an H2S Technician and working as a site medic and H2S Tech.

Following his time in Kuwait he was offered a job in Qatar working for SECORP Industries out of Lafayette, Louisiana, first as an offshore medic/H2S technician and later as Country Manager. While working onshore in Qatar in his new supervisory role, the rig manager for the first rig he had worked on came to the office and asked if he'd like to join Cliffs Drilling as a Safety Officer in a newly created position offshore.

This entry into occupational safety saw Murray working through a series of mergers. First Cliffs being swallowed up by R&B Falcon (Reading and Bates merged with Falcon Drilling just prior), then merging with Transocean Sedco Forex (recently merged Sedco Forex and Transocean Offshore). After years of working around the globe Murray was offered a position with the newly created TODCO (The Offshore Drilling Company) which was created to take over the Transocean shallow water division and he found himself working in Angola West Africa.

It was while working for TODCO that Murray turned his sights on obtaining a master's degree. He enrolled at the University of Greenwich in the UK where he received a Master of Science in Occupational Safety and Health on his 49th birthday.

Armed with his new degree Murray was now positioned to move up and work for the big five. First, remaining in Angola, he accepted a contract with Chevron working on a major capital project in West Africa. This led to a contract advising BP on a Transocean drillship off the coast of Africa, following which he returned to Canada. There, he took a position with Global Training facilitating safety leadership programs for Chevron, Shell, Exxon Mobil, and many other oil and gas companies and service companies.

After almost a decade of traveling with Global Training Murray accepted a consultancy position with the Chevron Mafumeira Sul project, back in Angola, West Africa where he would work in the Houston office until the downturn in oil and gas lead to international layoffs.