



Energy

Economics

Environment

Cyclone's K-Drive saves the three E's that are most important to the industry.

Cyclone Drilling is in the process of rolling out K-Drive, a strategy that addresses issues near and dear to the oil and gas industry: saving energy, improving drilling economics and preserving the environment.

K-Drive is activated during tripping operations. During that process the rig must have three megawatts of power available, but most of the time it is only using 500 kilowatts or less. The K-Drive flywheel releases and stores energy during demand peaks and troughs, respectively. This keeps diesel generators running at optimal load, increasing their efficiency.

“The potential for savings is significant,” said Paul Hladky, Cyclone Vice President. “Wells nowadays are drilled in a relatively short period of time. About 20 to 30 percent of that time is spent tripping. That’s a lot of opportunities to save diesel.”

Saving the cost of diesel is significant, but the benefits for the environment are equally important. Less diesel consumption means fewer emissions, but also less truck traffic on lease roads, less noise and less dust. Maintenance costs are also reduced.

“The K-Drive has an advantage over batteries for peak-shaving power demand,” said Hladky. “While no process is perfectly efficient, battery technology has not been able to compensate for loss of performance across a battery’s lifetime. In addition, battery replacement involves both an environmental cost and a capital cost. Batteries also generate heat during cycles, which further decreases their lifetime.”

There's a better way to work safely: Just look!

Sometimes the best course of action is the simplest. That's certainly the case with Cyclone's Behavior Based Safety (BBS) Program.

"Eighty percent of all accidents are the result of at-risk behaviors," said Ron Reesy, Cyclone's Safety Audit and Training Supervisor. "That led us to the conclusion that the best way to control incidents is just to observe employees at work."

Cyclone's Behavior Based Safety Program is based on that simple premise. Employees are encouraged to observe each other doing regular, everyday tasks and talk about what they have observed.

"Most of our rig hands know the difference between good and at-risk behaviors," said Reesy. "The challenge for us is to get them to recognize those behaviors in themselves and in other employees and contractors on the

rig. And of course to take the time to report them."

To achieve this, Cyclone Rig, Casing and Trucking employees submit BBS observations during each work shift. The observation can be either a safer way to perform a task or a more efficient way. Employees are recognized when they submit observations that reduce risk or improve efficiency.

"We share these observations with our customers and they are buying into the program," said Reesy. "A customer recently recognized one of our employees for stopping an unsafe act. Safety is important to everyone."

Especially when all it takes to improve it is to take a closer look.

Pictured from left to right: Shawn Stout-EHS Safety Coach, Nathan Atchley-Devon PIC, Buddy Mortimer-Derrickman and Billy Williams-Rig Manager

On 5/27/22, While in the process of pulling the rotating head bushings for casing ops, a crew member put his arm in between the hoisting cable and a joint of casing that was hanging from the elevators. Buddy immediately stopped the job and explained the potential hazards of having his arm caught in between the two objects if the hoist operator would have engaged the hydraulic hoist.



Cyclone's mentorship program speeds up the training process.

A booming oil and gas industry is good for everyone, but it invariably produces a manpower shortage...a shortage that must be filled with inexperienced employees.

Cyclone is addressing that problem through its recently launched mentorship program. The program is designed to speed up the learning curve for new employees by pairing them with experienced rig hands. The result is that new Cyclone employees quickly begin to perform like more seasoned veterans.

"We needed a better introduction to the job for new employees," said Dan McEntee, Cyclone HSE Manager. "So we built a mentoring guidebook that explains to new employees what they can expect when they get on the rig. It covers policies and procedures for just about every job a new employee on Cyclone drilling rigs would be required to execute. We don't want there to be any surprises."

But Cyclone management soon realized that the book by itself was not enough. It needed someone to teach it,

someone with hands-on experience. As a result, a new mentorship program was initiated.

"A mentor might be a Tool Pusher, Driller or a Motorman or a Derrick Hand, or even a recently

hired employee who has completed the mentoring process," said McEntee. "The idea is to put someone with the new hand that can teach a specific part of rig operations and discuss related key learning questions. When the new hand has mastered that part, which may take a week or a month, he may be passed on to a new mentor to learn something new."



New employees quickly find themselves able to do things that once took new employees months to master. And to do them well and safely. That has not gone unnoticed by rig veterans.

"Our older guys, even company men, say I wish I had something like this when I was breaking into the oilfield," said McEntee. They say it would have made them better employees...and safer. At the end of the day, that is what we are trying to accomplish."

Cyclone no stranger to long service employees.

Why do employees stay at a company when there are opportunities for them elsewhere? You would have to ask each employee, but Cyclone has a pretty good system that keeps employees for a long time. Just ask Paul Hladky, one of the owners of the Gillette, Wyoming based drilling contractor.

“The easiest answer would be that we pay well and we do,” said Paul Hladky, Cyclone vice-president and one of the two owners of the company. “But I think it’s more than that and I believe our employees would verify that.”

What is the “more than that” referenced by Hladky? Well it starts with having an effective safety program that makes sure employees go home injury-free.

“Oil and gas drilling can be a dangerous business if you don’t have a strong safety culture,” said Hladky. “At Cyclone, we have built a business based on taking care of our employees and the other parties that visit our rigs. Our expectation is to have an incident-free workplace and we believe that is achievable.”

Building a family atmosphere is also important to long service employees. Employees want to be part of a team, but in the best companies they are part of a family. Cyclone employees know they are part of the Cyclone family.

“We know our employees,” said Hladky. “We value their goals and ambitions and the other things that are important to them. We celebrate when they celebrate

and we are sad when they are sad. That’s how a family operates. There is more to life than work, but a good work environment can contribute to a happy life. We try to create that for all of our employees.”

The Cyclone formula must be working. If you don’t believe it, just look at the list of long service employees on this page. Once people join Cyclone, they tend to hang around. And with many good reasons.





YEARS OF SERVICE

James Titus	29
Joseph Kern	27
Colan Hulse	25
Kevin Herman	24
Leon Decker	22
Matthew Goven	21
Faron Patton	20
Timothy Taylor	20
Chris Miller	17
Richard Thompson	17
Julie Abbenhaus	17
Jacob Anderson	17
Christopher Hamilton	16
Rita Piper	16
Jeffrey Brotherton	16
Blaine Bullinger	15
Casey Alexander	14
Spence Rinker	14
Joshua Crawford	13
Jonathan Kraft	13
Brian Ogden	13
Robert Pingree	13

Seth Marshall	12
Joey Kraft	12
Trey Van Orsdel	12
Paul Hildebrant	12
Dane Wang	12
Tyler Petersen	12
Peggy Sawdey	12
Trevor Allen	12
Tyson Jones	11
Augustine Sisneros	11
Billy Williams	11
Tyler Buchman	11
Patrick Ridley	10
Joshua Fish	10
Larry Little	10
Jared Swarthout	10
Charles Hinkley	10
Nick Mortimer	10
Michael Walker	10
Edward Rodenborg	10
Joseph Krause	10

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