

Title	Offshore Technology Report 2000/096: Summary guide to safety climate tools - oto99063.pdf
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Executive Summary	<p>Most people violate some rules at some time or other. The speed restrictions on motorways are a good example of a rule that is frequently violated. Driving through a red traffic light is another less common violation; however, this example introduces an important distinction. A driver passing a red traffic light is clearly a traffic violation but may not be a violation in the behaviour sense. The key is WHY the driver passed the red light. If the driver was distracted and accidentally crossed the red light then this is not a violation. If, however, it was a deliberate or intentional act, perhaps calculated to get the driver home early to see the golf, then action would be a violation.</p> <p>Violations are defined as any deliberate deviations from the rules, procedures, instructions and regulations drawn up for the safe or efficient operation and maintenance of plant or equipment. Violations are clearly important, as they have been found to be linked with between 70% and 90% of incidents and accidents. There will, of course, be other reasons why some people fail to follow the rules and procedures. These could be the result of genuine mistakes but where staff genuinely tried to work to the rules. The failure could also be the result of a lapse in concentration. These forms of human error are not addressed by this report.</p> <p>While organisations frequently do not have serious reservations about their safety procedures, organisation, or management, major accident investigations often reveal serious flaws. In recent years the nature of accident causation has changed with engineering failures no longer being a major feature in many accidents. It is now largely behavioural with human failings being a significant part of the causes of most accidents. Of these, knowingly deviating from approved work practice represents a large proportion of incidents involving some form of human error.</p> <p>This form of human error is often termed ‘violations’. This research report was commissioned to develop a package of easy to use, but comprehensive, methodologies for the offshore industries to use to enable the non-specialist to identify the underlying reasons behind violations. The deliverables of the project also aim, as far as possible, to identify the best management practices for reducing the potential for violations. These must be used alongside established safety management practices and existing accident investigation techniques. The new methodologies should therefore be integrated with existing practices and not used to replace them.</p> <p>There have recently been a number of major disasters where violations of safety rules and procedures have been identified as being a major factor in the accident causal chain. Although the association between rule violations and these major disasters appears to be becoming increasingly common, many rule violations result in less serious incidents. Others result in no incidents at all. Nevertheless, the potential for serious and major incidents is clearly present from staff at all levels violating safety rules and procedures and the</p>

	offshore industry need to address this risk.	
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