# Workplace Fitness and Rehabilitation

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"Self delusion is pulling in your stomach when you step on the scales...."

Paul Sweeney

# **How do we get the "H" into HSE?**

- Health is often the poor relative in workplaces
- Men like to believe they are invincible
- "Lifestyle" issues can be hard to approach
- Work offshore to earn the money and time to enjoy life
- Cyclical work schedule can cause large variations in activity



# The vicious circle....

- 12 hours heavy work in hot, humid conditions
- Great food lots of cakes and fatty snacks on offer
- Satellite TV and wireless internet in every room
- Temptation to "crash" during off-tour
- Body gets used to this cycle
- Mental and physical energy levels decrease

## Common barriers to overcome....



- Believe physical activity during shift is enough
- Too tired to do anything after shifts
- Lack of understanding regarding food (potato "salad" is not salad)
- Temptations educating catering staff
- Gym equipment can be intimidating how do I use this stuff?
- Macho culture "stretching and lettuce is for pussies"

# **Breaking the cycle....**

- Health and Fitness consultants visit Maersk rigs
- 5 day visits / 6 weekly
- Great novelty value
- Specialist consultants better placed for health discussions
- Fit, healthy, fresh-faces with a positive, approachable message



# **Health Activities**

- Screening (baseline health metrics):
  - Blood pressure
  - Cholesterol
  - Glucose
  - BMI
  - Body fat %
  - Flexibility
- Direct engagement guidance for catering staff
- Workshops (nutrition, men's health, mental health)
- Programs (diet planning, lifestyle management)
- Campaigns (pedometer challenge, biggest loser)



# **Fitness Focus**

- Gym management
- Consultations (Personal training and advice)
- Group classes
- Fitness challenges



# **Injury Management**

- Rehabilitation
- Spinal Care (back care)
- Ergonomics
- Work stretch program (Warm Up4Work)



# **Objective results.....**

- Provided with regular progress reports
- Over past 2 years, we have seen:
  - 14% increase in general physical activity levels
  - 15% reduction in average Body Mass Index (BMI)
  - 10% reduction in waist:hip ratio
  - 30% improvement in flexibility scores

# **DrillSafe**

#### AUSTRALIA'S DRILLING INDUSTRY HEALTH SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT FORUM

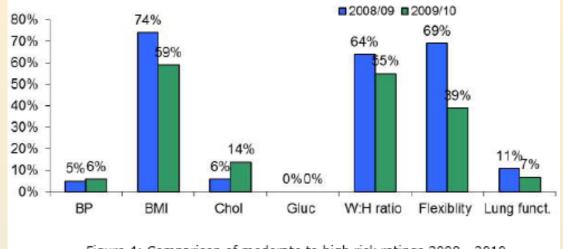
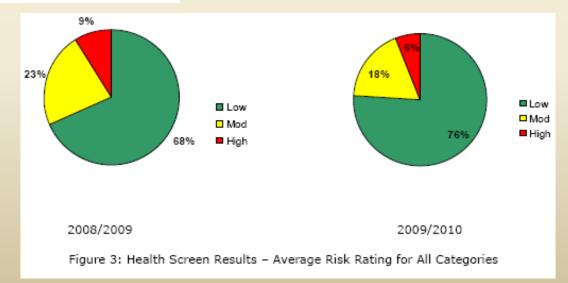


Figure 4: Comparison of moderate to high risk ratings 2008 - 2010



## Feedback from crews.....

- Hesitant at first, but quickly builds momentum
- Great for morale, gets cross-crew interaction
- Feeling better coming off-shift after stretching, preparing
- More energy and positive outlook on and off-tour
- Applying the learning to improve their home lifestyles
- Demonstrates a commitment by the company to crew welfare



# **Conclusion**

- Maersk Drilling considers health consultants good value
- Extended programme to Perth office
- Client likes proactive approach and contribute to costs
- Once established, programme is easy to manage
- Noticeable effect on crew behaviours
  - Greater gym usage
  - Increased demand for good foods
  - Decreased soft drink consumption, etc



