



Search People



Munaf Ali

posted 5 months ago

onshore

drilling

human-resources

e6p



How Many Drilling Engineers Do We Need For A Project Running 3 Land Rigs On 3 Shifts?

We are running an onshore drilling operation with 3 shifts and 3 rigs. What would be a standard staffing of drilling engineers for this setup?

20 Answers

[Barry Schneider](#) answered 5 months ago

My preference would be to have one engineer focusing on actual engineering, but back that person up with a 24x7 monitoring group that could do double duty as the directional drillers or MWD hands. If structured right, you can keep costs low while increasing efficiencies and improved quality of life for all involved.



[Barry Schneider](#)

answered 5 months ago



[Mike Pavelka](#) · Mar 24

Too much back stabbing and politics if they are from different companies.

[Jack Williams](#) answered 5 months ago

There are a lot of variables that will impact the answer to your question. Let me list some of the ones that come to mind: 1. Domestic or over seas 2. Proximity to living quarters i.e. A Man camp B Commuting distance to sites C Fly in etc. 3. Political stability if it is an over seas project 4. A Communications to and from off duty personnel B. Communications between sites 5. Distance between sites 6. Availability of resources 7. Estimated shipping times for replacement or emergency parts. 8. Access to technical support.

There are many more those are just the ones off the top of my head. Depending on the answers to the questions above your Drilling Engineer staff could range from your normal staffing load for a single site and use multiple interns deployed as needed between the three sites; up to a full complement for each site for each shift.

I'd look at all my variables first and then plug in the staffing requirements accordingly.



[Jack Williams](#)
answered 5 months ago



[Munaf Ali](#) · Mar 22

Thank you very much Jack. Variable B applies to this case but all others will be accounted.

[Andre Motty](#) answered 5 months ago

One should be able to handle 3 rigs with no problem if he knows what he's doing..



[Andre Motty](#)
answered 5 months ago



[Kevin Stiles](#) · Mar 22

One engineer assuming he's experienced and there are good consultants on the rig

[Warwick Sanderson](#) answered 5 months ago

Three. One to read, another to write and the third one to look after the two intellectuals.



[Warwick Sanderson](#)
answered 5 months ago

[Omar Gallegos](#) answered 5 months ago

My suggestion, two drilling engineer for drilling programs and two drilling engineer (15 by 15) for each rig at field.



[Omar Gallegos](#)
answered 5 months ago

[Dave Mahowich](#) answered 5 months ago

One engineer is sufficient if he has several years experience . Good field consultants will make for a smooth operation.



[Dave Mahowich](#)
answered 5 months ago

[Lorne Saina](#) answered 5 months ago

Actually it depends on the complexity of the well and if it's high temperature high pressure sour or not. If it's a normal shallow land well and all rigs are doing cookie cutter wells you just need one engineer position doing programs and another position acting as operations Supt. This is assuming you have a good logistics support Dept. As mentioned this is dependent on world class well site supervision and honest reporting. It's possible for one engineer to do everything but not easy if there are communication and cultural and or security challenges and above all the quality control quality assurance that the service providers are giving you. This also depends on the strength of your HSE support and how you are set up. This also assumes you have a drilling manager that knows what to watch for and to guide correctly.



[Lorne Saina](#)
answered 5 months ago

[Owen Fleming](#) answered 5 months ago

1 engineer is suffice per rig, unless you are planning any special project wells (monitor wells requiring flat pac for down hole gauges, smart pipe, multi-lateral wells, etc.), then more than 1 maybe required.



[Owen Fleming](#)
answered 5 months ago

[Jonie Maja](#) answered 5 months ago

One SME, & 3 located engineer



[Jonie Maja](#)
answered 5 months ago

[Tim Wisneski](#) answered 5 months ago

Why not have one for the three rigs, no more is required assuming you have capable rig crews. Why in the world are you running three shifts, why not two x 12 hr?



[Tim Wisneski](#)
answered 5 months ago

[Troy Roberts](#) answered 5 months ago

My answer is 8, 2 Engineers working 12 hour shifts per site. And 2 floaters to take up the slack when a Engineer can't work a full 12. Other than that the 2 floaters are performing documentation and reporting etc...



[Troy Roberts](#)
answered 5 months ago



[Rick Davis](#) · Mar 26

With very experienced Co-Men you only need one engineer for three rigs. Whether the engineer is well versed or not. It used to be one engineer and 10 Rigs.

[Gary Taylor](#) answered 5 months ago

Two @ the most, I could do it with One Engineer.



[Gary Taylor](#)
Answered 5 months ago

[Keith Reeves](#) answered 5 months ago

Apologies in advance for being frivolous but someone has to note the similarity to the following Q&A . .

Q: How many consulting engineers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: One, that'll be \$1,500 please.



[Keith Reeves](#)
answered 5 months ago

[Jason Serrao](#) answered 5 months ago

Seriously.. are you going to populate your team based on the answers in an online discussion? !!!



[Jason Serrao](#)

answered 5 months ago

[Edgar Nova](#) answered 5 months ago

If you want to run a safe Job , you will need the following crew: 1 Drilling Superintendent, 2 -3 Drilling Engineers working in the office working in: Planning, Execution, logistic, to be in contact with services companies , 3 Co-Man and 3 Jr. Drilling Engineers (Assistant Drllg Engineers). The Co-man will work 15 to 21 day On/Off. This will be the basic crew in normal operation. In some countries the Mud Engineers and Directional Drilling Engineers need to be petroleum Engineers



[Edgar Nova](#)

answered 5 months ago

[Merlyn "Pepe" Nelson](#) answered 5 months ago

One engineer, 4 consultants per rig, consultants work rotation 2 x 2, each rotation with 12 hr. shifts. Consultants with strong drilling background, comprehensive planning with contingencies, daily reviews with DE looking forward, shared geological data encompassed with detailed offset awareness. Consultants with strong drilling skills will afford the DE to research and plan, collect and forecast performance while his/her consultants manage the routine daily operations. Communication and planning essential for success.



[Merlyn "Pepe" Nelson](#)

answered 5 months ago

[Chris Sabulsky](#) answered 5 months ago

Depending on the length of time on the project and keeping the answer simple 2 engineers that are well rounded in drilling with one rotator too relieve .



[Chris Sabulsky](#)

answered 5 months ago

[Michael Murray](#) answered 5 months ago

6 - well site personnel in the desert or offshore want to be busy for their hitch, not sitting around waiting for something to do.



[Michael Murray](#)

answered 5 months ago

[Popescu Horatiu](#) answered 5 months ago

I would say, first of all you (company) should decide the schedule, how many days on-off for personnel, after this you can figure out something, if 28/28 or 35/35 on-off you may need 4 shifts/rig, means 2 Rig managers and 2 Assistant Rig Managers (night pushers) /rig. All above if 24/7 operating time.



[Popescu Horatiu](#)
answered 5 months ago

[Philippe Bouguet](#) answered 5 months ago

None. rig managers can do it. These guys are totally useless except for paperwork and invoices.



[Philippe Bouguet](#)
answered 5 months ago