Acadian Ambulance Medics: Now You Can Find Them On Offshore Rigs

By BERT STROUD

An offshore worker has suffered for two days with a pain in his left arm. Someone who knows him quite well notices he just isn’t the same. The doctor who performed his annual physical notes a slight change in his mental attitude. He objec-
tes to getting up, and he is apprehensive about going to work the next day. The doctor is concerned and asks him to call Acadian Ambulance.

One year later, in January, 1982, the man needed medical care in the depths of an oil rig while working offshore. The only medical facility had been 20 miles away, but the nearest Acadian Ambulance on a contract with the oil company was 10 miles away, on a nearby island. The company’s first aid kit was empty, and the man was in great pain.

By coincidence, the Acadian Ambulance crew arrived and administered life-saving care. The man is now back to work.

The story of how Acadian Ambulance stepped in to save lives and provide medical care for offshore workers is the subject of a recent article in the "Oil & Gas News." The article highlights the company’s efforts to meet the medical needs of offshore workers.

Acadian Ambulance launched its first contract medical program with AMCO Offshore and Gas Company in the Gulf of Mexico. The company had about 200 workers. We agreed to set up on a month-to-month basis, and as the business expanded, we expanded our service.

Under Acadian’s contract medical program, its crew was trained to provide the emergency care needed by the workers. The company provided a medical unit that was serviced and maintained by Acadian Ambulance.

In 1982, the company expanded the program to include medical care for offshore workers. The medical unit was staffed by a doctor, a nurse, and a paramedic. The crew provided care for more than 2,000 workers.

Checking blood pressures on a weekly basis is part of the contract medical program. The crew also provides emergency care, such as small cuts and blisters.

Acadian Ambulance has a pool of trained medical professionals who provide care to workers. The company also provides a medical team that can be deployed to any location on short notice.

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"We are proud to be part of the Acadian Ambulance team," says Mike Dugas, a paramedic on the offshore rig.

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An off-duty medic assists rig personnel in keeping safety equipment up to date.