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### 'Change needed in safety laws'

Louis B Homer South Bureau

Monday, June 20th 2005

A call has been made by a representative of one of the leading energy construction contractors in Trinidad for improvement to the country's safety laws.

Tom Hill, Bechtel Site Manager on the Atlantic LNG project at Point Fortin, said: "The workplace would be safer when appropriate industrial legislation is put in place because the existing ones do not compel contractors to carry out more stringent safety programmes."

He said even when the legislation is updated a lot will depend on the ability of workers to ensure that there is a minimum of industrial accidents. Hill said: "You can pass all the legislation but they are only as good as the workers who work on the projects. When stringent safety laws are passed workers will then have to follow the rules and be equipped with proper equipment to carry out their duties."

Hill said there were 3,000 workers now employed on the construction of ALNG Train 4 project and in order to ensure that there were no accidents the company has employed one safety officer for every 40 or 50 workers employed on the plant.

Last Thursday Bechtel held an interfaith service on the plant at Point Fortin to record the company's achievement of an accident free record after operating for ten million man hours during the last two years.

"The achievement of this record makes Bechtel the company with the best safety record among the 50 projects undertaken worldwide by Bechtel International," Hill said.

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