

FOR RELEASE: April 4, 1995

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MMS ANNOUNCES DIAMOND OFFSHORE AS 1994  
NATIONAL SAFETY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE WINNER

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today awarded the 1994 National Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) to Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc., cited specifically for the well drilling rig Ocean Crusader, MMS officials announced.

"MMS is proud to recognize Diamond Offshore as a model offshore drilling company," said MMS Director Cynthia Quarterman.

"In fact, we are especially pleased because this is their second consecutive year to win the National SAFE Award. The competition among the companies for this award is very intense and it takes a high degree of diligence and effort to be selected. A repeat win is highly commendable." Last year the rig Ocean King was cited for recognition.

The award was presented by Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Bob Armstrong during a workshop at the National Ocean Industries Association's annual meeting, held in Washington, DC.

"From January 1 to November 30, 1994, MMS conducted 13 inspections on Ocean Crusader without a single incident of noncompliance," Armstrong said. "Diamond Offshore displays superior safety awareness and pollution prevention, and sets a high standard for voluntary compliance. Moreover, they exhibit a strong commitment to their employees and to the environment as a whole.

"Diamond Offshore also encourages excellent day-to-day operations including good housekeeping, daily environmental audits, and well-trained, knowledgeable personnel," he said.

Each of MMS' six District offices may select up to four companies for District SAFE awards; MMS selects the National SAFE award winner from those district winners. This year there were four companies nominated for the National award. Diamond Offshore qualified by receiving the Houma District SAFE Award.

Criteria include accuracy of record keeping, equipment maintenance, cooperation with MMS and the use of new technology.

MMS is the federal agency that manages and regulates the nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the OCS, and collects and distributes revenues from offshore federal mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

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