



RC Torque

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When machinery shuts down, its usually for a VERY good reason

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Wonder who that new face is or where some-one is?

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RC Torque is a monthly Newsletter produced by Orbit Drilling Pty Ltd
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Early Warning

Time and again we are confronted with drill crews ordering parts and equipment for various reasons. More often than not, its because the consumables need to be replenished, other times its because tools and or equipment need to be replaced, but when warning signs start showing up on the job that a particular bit of equipment isn't working correctly, something has to give.

Compressors

We've had two compressors go to a job site on two separate occasions. One was not performing well and required extensive servicing so a replacement unit was shipped up to take its place.

After a period of time, the equipment began to develop faults. It started out with some oil weeping from coolant lines and then it started to shut down due to overheating.

This went on for 75 hours of operation - the drill crews required the compressor and continued to work noting that it had shutdown as a result of overheating. Eventually, it was shipped back to our workshop to be serviced and the fault rectified.

It came back in very poor condition.

What wasn't noted by the drill crews, was the fact that over 75 hours of operation, the auxiliary compressor shutdown 15 times!

We know this as the computers on modern industrial engines log and store these faults and they cannot be wiped by disconnecting the battery,

In the case of this Auxiliary Compressor, it was found upon inspection in the workshop, it only had 1 - 2 litres of coolant in the system.

The engine oil cooler was the culprit in this situation and its failure is being

covered by Caterpillar warranty (as it was within the engines warranty period).

Upon further investigation it was found that this fault (shutdown on overheating) has been happening for 75hrs which would normally void all warranty as any faults are required to be repaired ASAP.

Westrac were kind enough to replace the engine cooler under warranty but as the engine oil has been in the cooling system for so long, it has bake inside the radiator causing a muddy sludge which cannot be removed - even by the radiator engineers!

At the end of the day, the radiator now needs to be replaced at our cost - which exceeds \$5,000, and is not covered under warranty as the condition was left without rectification.

The moral of the story is if you experience a fault with a piece of equipment, it **MUST** be reported to the office as soon as practicable as if its not, this can void warranties, cause further damage and or cost thousands of dollars more than what in normal circumstances, could be prevented.

The systems that were found on this auxiliary compressor case were:

1. Overheating
2. No coolant in the system
3. Oily sludge in overflow bottle
4. Milky engine oil.

All of these symptoms were ignored and it almost cost us an engine worth \$80,000.

Be vigilant of the warning signs. If you're not sure, as, and if there is no one available to ask, place it out of service **IMMEDIATELY**.





Who’s Drilling where?

DR14 is drilling in the Leichardt Ranges, south of Townsville, Queensland. Wal Sawyer is also back with Orbit Drilling and has taken up the position of Drill Supervisor for the Eastern Division. Wal and his wife Trace were travelling around the country when Marty Smith dangled the carrot for Wal. The offer of working in Queensland was too good for Wal to refuse. So Welcome Back Wal. Along with Armour on the rig was James Officer, Gavin Savage, Dejan Dimitrovski, Michael Leist and Russel Lee (obviously not all at the same time).

DR17 under the command of Martin Hancock, has travelled across to join DR14. They arrived earlier this week and Martin H along with his offsiders Ed Leung-Yid and David Bell are now looking forward to getting on with the serious work of drilling.

DR16 continues drilling on Koolan Island. Michael Virtue and his merry men including Scott Luckman, Tim Clarke and Milutin Simun have been battling some difficult ground in the Main Pit West. Michael Rogers (drilling whilst Michael Virtue goes on break) has not had too much fun lately, although he did get bang out of one challenging hole. Milutin Simun is learning the ropes of Koolan drilling from Michael Virtue and recently held on to the reins while Michael Virtue had to receive some medical treatment. Lets hope that all goes well for you Michael - we’ll get you back on deck asap.

DR10 is still out at Lake Giles. Ivan, Kieran, Kris and Adam aren’t having too much fun out in the rain - they’ve been rained off a fair bit over the last few weeks and it looks like the next swing is being delayed by at least a week because of more rain. Besides that, things are going along okay.



DR 14 getting meters in the Leichardt Ranges. The crew have settled down to the job of drilling



Talk about getting the best ‘bang’ for you buck! DR16 has been working some difficult ground on Koolan Island recently and needed some assistance in getting out of the ground.



Daily Pre-start and Weekly Checklists

Each vehicle now has its own book containing the Checklist that is to be followed and completed on a weekly basis. Make sure you physically check each item - don't just tick it without checking.

Your daily pre-start checks should include the following parts:

1. Fuel level
2. Coolant level
3. Oil level

4. All electrical components
5. Horn
6. Wheel nut tension
7. Tyre condition
8. First Aid Kit
9. Fire Extinguisher
10. Clean Cab - interior and exterior

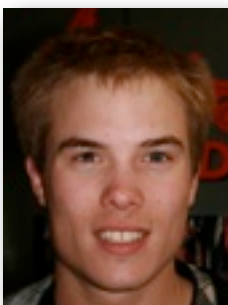
Failure to conduct your Pre-starts and/or Weekly Vehicle Checks may result in loss of your meter bonuses. Shortcuts being taken by drill crews is beginning to cost the company, large amounts of money.



More oily sludge from the Auxiliary Compressor. When you conduct your daily pre-starts, physically check each component to ensure its serviceability.

Some new Faces

In the last edition of RC Torque, we introduced some Savage lads - Gavin specifically. This month its Adam turn. Adam (photo left) comes to us from Boart Longyear and is working out at Lake Giles with Ivan Raccanello (photo right).



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Certificate in Drilling - Mineral Exploration

For those of you undertaking this Nationally Recognised training, you should now have completed the first four units and making good progress towards completing the 5th unit. Remember that you need to complete at least one theory component per month so its not that difficult to achieve.

As you go about your work at the drill site, get a copy of a toolbox meeting you've held, and save one of those Danger Tags you've completed - these all go towards evidence of learning throughout this course. When your next in Perth, bring in a copy of your First Aid Certificate as well. If you have any questions, talk to Martin Gehrman on 0432 504 062

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

WHEN DID YOU LAST COMPLETE A JHA? HAVE YOU COMPLETED ONE FOR ROD HANDLING IN THE RAIN?



Orbit Drilling

Pty Ltd

Have your Say.....

Why not drop us a story or two from the field? If you have something you'd like to contribute, send an email to admin@orbitdrilling.com.au with the subject: RC Torque Article and we'll get it the next edition.

And when's that you ask? RC Torque will come out once a month - look out for it with your payslip.

Welcome Lisa Delaney

Lisa Delaney joined us back in June, but until now has managed to evade the camera.

Lisa looks after accounts and finance for the company and also payroll. Any questions you may have in relation to your pay and payslips, feel free to ask Lisa.



All the Best....

James Officer has decided to move on and taken up a position with another company. James joined Orbit in January this year and worked on DR14 & 15 at a number of spots both here in the West as well as Qld. Thank you James for your time and effort - we wish you all the best for you and your family.



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