

Stuck Pipe Prevention and Fishing Operations Training Course

13 – 17 December 2026
Johannesburg

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Ref: 2079_252386 **Date:** 13 – 17 December 2026 **Location:** Johannesburg **Fees:** 6000 Euro

Overview

Stuck Pipe Prevention and Fishing Operations Training Course is a one-week intermediate course for drilling engineers, supervisors, wellsite personnel, directional drillers, mud engineers, toolpushers, and well operations teams who leave with a Stuck Pipe Prevention and Fishing Response Pack. Participants connect warning signs, mechanism diagnosis, preventive drilling controls, freeing decisions, fish description, tool selection, operating limits, and contingency planning. Agile Leaders Training Center delivers this course in stuck-pipe prevention and fishing operations.

Who Should Attend

- Drilling personnel responsible for well planning, drilling parameters, and operational risk controls
- Rig supervisors and toolpushers responsible for safe execution, escalation, and recovery decisions
- Directional-drilling personnel responsible for trajectory, BHA behavior, torque, drag, and hole condition
- Drilling-fluids personnel responsible for rheology, filtration, hydraulics, and hole-cleaning performance
- Well operations and service teams responsible for fishing preparation, tool deployment, and recovery support

The course assumes participants can interpret routine drilling reports and well parameters and leaves out basic rig induction, detailed well-control certification, and vendor-specific tool qualification.

Departments and Industries

The course supports drilling and well-intervention functions where stuck pipe and downhole recovery affect safety, time, and well delivery.

- Oil and gas drilling, exploration, and field-development operations
- Land, offshore, directional, extended-reach, and workover environments
- Drilling engineering, well construction, operations assurance, and technical services
- Drilling fluids, directional drilling, measurement, logging, and rig-site supervision
- Fishing, intervention, rental-tool, and downhole service organizations

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

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- Analyze stuck-pipe indicators and classify likely mechanisms.
- Apply hole-cleaning, tripping, stability, and differential-sticking controls.
- Diagnose the stuck point and prioritize immediate freeing actions.
- Build a fish description and compare retrieval-tool options.
- Evaluate jarring, overshot, spear, milling, and washover limits.
- Build a risk-based fishing plan with contingencies and learning actions.

Course Agenda

Day 1: Diagnose Stuck-Pipe Mechanisms

- Stuck-Pipe Event Definition and Mechanism Classification Matrix
- Torque, Drag, Hookload, Pressure, and Return-Flow Warning Trend
- Differential Sticking Force and Contact-Area Model
- Mechanical Sticking, Keyseat, Pack-Off, and Bridging Diagnostic Tree
- Stuck-Point Evidence and Event Timeline Worksheet

Day 2: Apply Prevention Controls

- Hole-Cleaning Hydraulics and Cuttings-Transport Review
- Drilling-Fluid Rheology and Filter-Cake Control Checklist
- Wellbore Stability, Geometry, and BHA Clearance Assessment
- Connection, Reaming, Backreaming, and Tripping Practice Controls
- Stuck-Pipe Prevention Plan and Trigger-Action Register

Day 3: Plan Immediate Freeing Actions

- Stuck-Pipe Mechanism Confirmation Decision Tree
- Working-Torque, Tension, Compression, and Equipment-Limit Envelope
- Circulation, Spotting-Fluid, Pressure, and Mechanical-Freeing Options
- Jar Placement, Direction, Impact, and Operating Sequence
- Escalation, Back-Off, and Fish-Creation Decision Gate

Day 4: Design Fishing Operations

- Fish Description, Top Condition, Dimensions, and Accessibility Sheet
- Impression, Locator, and Diagnostic Fishing-Tool Selection
- Overshot and Spear Grappling Selection Matrix
- Milling, Washover, Cutting, and Debris-Management Options
- Fishing BHA, Procedure, Risk, Contingency, and Acceptance Plan

Day 5: Practice Prevention and Recovery Decisions

- Suggested Exercise: Diagnose a Differential-Sticking Scenario
- Suggested Exercise: Build a Hole-Cleaning and Tripping Control Plan
- Suggested Exercise: Select Overshot, Spear, Jar, or Milling Options
- Suggested Exercise: Review Limits, Contingencies, and Stop Criteria
- Capstone Exercise: Present a Stuck Pipe Prevention and Fishing Response Pack

Practical Exercises

The course uses suggested activities based on drilling trends, well geometry, mud properties, equipment limits, and fish descriptions.

- Suggested activity: interpret torque, drag, hookload, pressure, and returns to classify the most likely sticking mechanism.
- Suggested activity: define preventive controls for cuttings transport, filter cake, wellbore stability, BHA clearance, and tripping.
- Suggested activity: compare freeing and fishing options against contact, access, load, circulation, and retrieval constraints.
- Suggested activity: build a sequenced fishing plan with risks, operating limits, contingencies, stop criteria, and post-job review.

FAQs

Who suits stuck pipe prevention and fishing operations training, and what does it assume?

Drilling and well-operations personnel suit the training. It assumes familiarity with drilling reports, rig operations, well geometry, drilling fluids, and routine downhole terminology.

How does stuck pipe prevention training differ from general drilling engineering training?

Stuck pipe prevention training concentrates on warning signs, mechanism diagnosis, preventive controls, freeing decisions, and fishing response, while general drilling engineering covers the wider well-design and construction lifecycle.

What is the difference between differential sticking and mechanical sticking?

Differential sticking results from pressure and contact forces holding pipe against a permeable filter cake; mechanical sticking arises from physical restriction such as pack-off, bridging, keyseating, geometry, or equipment condition.

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How are fishing tools selected for a stuck-pipe recovery?

Fishing tools are selected from the fish top, dimensions, accessibility, condition, load path, circulation needs, well geometry, operating limits, and the planned method of engagement and release.

When should a stuck-pipe response move from freeing attempts to fishing?

The response changes when evidence, equipment limits, time exposure, well risk, and agreed decision gates show that continued freeing attempts are no longer justified and a controlled fish must be created or recovered.

Conclusion

Participants take back a Stuck Pipe Prevention and Fishing Response Pack. It combines a mechanism diagnostic tree, warning indicators, prevention controls, freeing-action limits, fish description, tool-selection matrix, fishing procedure, risk register, contingencies, and learning review. The pack supports faster, traceable decisions while keeping recovery actions within defined well and equipment constraints.