

## Professor Richardson, Imperial – Presents “The Piper Alpha tragedy - 30 years on”

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 18:00

**NOTE CHANGE IN VENUE**

The Piper Alpha platform was operated by Occidental Petroleum and began production in 1976. At its peak it was one of the largest producing fields, accounting for roughly 10% of North Sea oil production. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1988 a series of events occurred that would result in the tragic loss of 167 lives and wide ranging ramifications for the offshore oil and gas industry. From inherent design, permit to work, operational modifications, safety management systems, human factors and emergency response, this event forced the offshore oil and gas industry to critically reassess itself. In 1990 the Cullen Enquiry was published and made 106 recommendations for changes to North Sea safety procedures, among the most pertinent of which was the introduction of the Offshore Safety Case Regulations (1992) and transferring the responsibility of enforcing safety in the North Sea from the Department of Energy to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).



The Piper Alpha tragedy recently commemorated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This SONG talk will remind us of the events of 6<sup>th</sup> July 1988 and subsequent discussion will address the question of whether offshore safety in the North Sea has improved since then.



**Professor Stephen Richardson** is an Emeritus Professor of Chemical Engineering, Imperial College London, UK. He was educated at Imperial College. After working as a Research Assistant at Cambridge, he was appointed as a Lecturer at Imperial College in 1978 and then promoted through the ranks to Professor in 1994. His principal research interest is safety, specifically the depressurisation of vessels and pipelines, particularly those associated with oil and gas production, and development of the computer program BLOWDOWN, which has since been used in the design of well over 300 installations. In 1996, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

**Venue:** The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, 297 Euston Road, London NW1 3AD. This is close to Warren Street tube station. Map attached.

For more information contact:

[song@ichememember.org](mailto:song@ichememember.org)

**Refreshments and networking from 5.30pm, the presentation will start at 6.00pm. There will be an opportunity for more networking after the presentation.**

Members not able to attend can join the live presentation over the web.

Register for this at: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/8079304194476930050>

Join us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/IChemE-Oil-Natural-Gas-Special-7421236/about>

Non SONG members must register their attendance in advance by email to:

[song@ichememember.org](mailto:song@ichememember.org)

## The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

### LOCATION

PLEASE USE THE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING AT:

72-73 Warren Street, London W1T 5PE

Press the buzzer to call Reception

Tel: + 44 020 7451 7300

### By Road

The nearest motorways are the M40, M4 and M1. IOM3 is situated near Euston Road and Tottenham Court Road. The nearest car park is at Euston Station.

### By Rail

National rail services operate to King's Cross, St Pancras, Euston, Waterloo, Charing Cross, Cannon Street, Marylebone, Paddington, Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street. Taxis, buses and underground services operate from these stations.

### By Underground

Underground; the nearest tube stations are:

- Warren Street (Northern and Victoria lines)
- Euston Square (Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan lines)
- Great Portland Street (Circle, Hammersmith & City, Metropolitan lines)
- Regent's Park (Bakerloo line)

### By Bus

Euston Road and Tottenham Court Road are well served by numerous London buses. For more information on London transport, telephone + 44 (0)207 222 1234 or visit [www.tfl.gov.uk/](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/)

