



video transcript

Day in the Life: Drill Site Manager

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I've been around the oil and gas industry my entire life, so oil and gas is kind of in my blood.

I'm Kelsey Prestidge. I'm a drill site manager for the mid-continent business unit with Chevron, out here in the Permian Basin. My typical day, I wake up between 4:15, 4:30, get a little bite to eat for breakfast and then I'll head in to the office and start to review the reports for the morning, make sure that they're all accurate. I have a pretty long commute. It's probably a total of twenty steps from my bedroom to the actual office. A lot of people don't really understand that we live out here on location for fourteen days straight.

When I first hired on with Chevron, before my first hitch offshore, my dad sat me down and we kind of had this 'welcome to the oilfield' conversation, and it was pretty much, don't go out there thinking that you know everything because you really don't. Go out, engage with the crews, engage with your drill site managers, engage with your safety guys, business partners, whoever's out there. Learn what they do, because you couldn't do what you do without them. I know it's kind of cliché, people say there's no such thing as a stupid question. I'm the queen of questions. You can ask some of my drill site managers. I ask about 150 million questions a day. The more you ask, the more you learn, and the more you learn, the more that you're able to innovate. You can change your thinking. You can open your mind to different ideas and see different things and say, "Hey, that might work here." With the experiences I've been granted by Chevron, it has given me a really in depth understanding of what the actual oil and gas industry does in terms of drilling operations. I've picked up slips. I've set slips. I've doped pipe. I know how to transfer pipe. I know how to unshackle loads off of a crane on a deepwater drill ship, and it just gave me a more in depth understanding of what my crews are actually going through day in and day out. It gives me something that I can relate to them about.

One of the things I like the most about working out in the field is you get the sense of family, the sense of camaraderie. This really is my family. I spend more time with the people that I work with out here in the field than I actually do with my own family back home. Every day has its own challenges. Every day I wake up excited to come to work. I enjoy being creative and hands on with my crew to see what we can change and what we can implement to make our operations better. I'm so fortunate that I've had the opportunity to work here in the Permian Basin and learn and continue to grow in my career.