

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
GULF OF MEXICO REGION

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED

DATE: 06-MAR-2006 TIME: 1130 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Samson Contour Energy E&P, LLC

REPRESENTATIVE: Tom Koscelny

TELEPHONE: (918) 591-1386

3. LEASE: G01142

AREA: VR LATITUDE:

BLOCK: 218 LONGITUDE:

4. PLATFORM: B

RIG NAME

5. ACTIVITY: EXPLORATION(POE)

DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION (DOCD/POD)

6. TYPE: FIRE

EXPLOSION

BLOWOUT

COLLISION

INJURY NO. 2

FATALITY NO. _____

POLLUTION

OTHER _____

7. OPERATION: PRODUCTION

DRILLING

WORKOVER

COMPLETION

MOTOR VESSEL

PIPELINE SEGMENT NO. _____ TELEPHONE:

OTHER PLATFORM SHUT IN SINCE RITA

8. CAUSE: EQUIPMENT FAILURE

HUMAN ERROR

EXTERNAL DAMAGE

SLIP/TRIP/FALL

WEATHER RELATED

LEAK

UPSET H2O TREATING

OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID

OTHER INCORRECT PREP FOR HOT WORK

9. WATER DEPTH: 120 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 58 MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: S

SPEED: 2 M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: S

SPEED: 0 M.P.H.

13. SEA STATE: 0 FT.

16. OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE/
SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

JIM LOFTON

CITY: LAKE CHARLES STATE: LA

TELEPHONE: (337) 855-6010

CONTRACTOR: Wood Group Production Services

CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE/
SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

CITY: STATE:

TELEPHONE:

17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

AS THE WELDER AND WELDERS HELPER WERE PERFORMING HOT WORK ON THE TOP DECK (PRE FAB HANDRAILS) SLAG FELL TO THE BOTTOM DECK AND IGNITED A 1/4 FULL TANK OF METHANOL, CAUSING IT TO EXPLODE. THIS RESULTED IN A FLASH FIRE, FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL SMALL FIRES INVOLVING RESIDUAL PLASTIC AND PAPER PRODUCTS.

THE EXPLOSION AND RESULTING FIRE CAUSED BURNS TO TWO OF THE WELDERS. THEY WERE EVACUATED TO SHORE FOR TREATMENT. BOTH WERE ADMITTED FOR TREATMENT, WHICH RESULTED IN LOST TIME.

18. LIST THE PROBABLE CAUSE(S) OF ACCIDENT:

HOT WELDING SLAG FROM TOP DECK. IT IS BELIEVED THAT METHANOL WAS INADVERTENTLY RELEASED INTO CHEMICAL TANK SKID PRIOR TO EXPLOSION/FIRE. THE WELDING WAS TAKING PLACE DIRECTLY OVER THE METHANOL TANK WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE BOTTOM DECK. A PIECE OF PLYWOOD WAS PLACED OVER THE TANK AND SECURED WITH ROPE, BUT DID NOT COVER THE ENTIRE SKID, ALLOWING THE IGNITION SOURCE TO IGNITE THE METHANOL IN THE SKID AND BEGIN HEATING THE METHANOL CONTAINER. AT THIS POINT A BLEVE OCCURRED. (boiling liquid expanding vapor explosion)

19. LIST THE CONTRIBUTING CAUSE(S) OF ACCIDENT:

THE PLYWOOD THAT WAS PLACED ON TOP OF THE METHANOL TANK ACTUALLY RESTRICTED THE VENT, THIS IN TURN ALLOWED PRESSURE TO BUILD IN THE VAPOR SECTION OF THE TANK AS IT WAS BEING HEATED. PROCEDURES LISTED ON HOT WORK PERMIT WERE NOT FOLLOWED. THE METHANOL SKID COULD HAVE BEEN MOVED OR THE WELDING COULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT A SAFER LOCATION. THE FIRE WATCH WAS PLACED ON THE TOP DECK WHERE THE WELDER WAS POSITIONED, AND NO ONE WAS MONITORING THE BOTTOM DECK WHERE THE WELDING SLAG WAS FALLING TO THE BOTTOM DECK. THE JSA FOR THE JOB AT HAND HAD NO MENTION OF REMOVING COMBUSTIBLE OR FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS AWAY FROM THE WORK AREA. THE HOT WORK PERMIT THAT WAS UTILIZED DOES NOT CLEARLY DEFINE THE NAME AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FIRE WATCH. THERE IS NO DOCUMENTATION OR PROOF THAT THE CHEMICAL SKID IN QUESTION WAS CHECKED FOR FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS PRIOR TO JOB. NEITHER OF THE PLATFORM OPERATORS (LEAD AND "A") WERE OUTSIDE SUPERVISING THE WELDER AND HIS OPERATION. THEREFORE A LACK OF SUPERVISION CAN VERY WELL BE INCLUDED AS A CONTRIBUTING CAUSE.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED: NATURE OF DAMAGE:

CHEMICAL TANK AND SKID, EXTENSION CORDS, HEAT/ FIRE
WELDING LEADS, PPE, FACE SHEILD, HARD
HAT, GOGGLES.

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): \$1,000

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

THERE ARE NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MMS.

THE OPERATOR RECOMMENDS THAT THEY AMEND HOT WORK PERMITS TO INCLUDE 2 FIREWATCHES IF HOT WORK IS TAKING PLACE IN ONE AREA, AND SLAG IS FALLING TO ANOTHER AREA. TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO VERIFY THAT ALL COMBUSTIBLE OR FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE WORKSITE, OR CONTAINERS HAVE BEEN PURGED OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS OR RENDERED INERT. MAKE CERTAIN THAT DESIGNATED FIREWATCH IS CLEAR OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTED ON APPROPRIATE JSA OR HOT WORK PERMIT.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

G-112-FAILED TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS AND REMOVE ANY HEALTH, SAFETY OR FIRE HAZARDS.

G-116-OPERATIONS NOT CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH HOT WORK PERMIT.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

08-MAR-2006

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

ERIC FONTENOT /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: NO

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

FPausina for LWilliamson

APPROVED

DATE: 04-MAY-2006

FIRE/EXPLOSION ATTACHMENT

1. SOURCE OF IGNITION: **WELDING SLAG**

2. TYPE OF FUEL:

- GAS
- OIL
- DIESEL
- CONDENSATE
- HYDRAULIC
- OTHER **METHANOL**

3. FUEL SOURCE: **PORTABLE METHANOL TANK**

4. WERE PRECAUTIONS OR ACTIONS TAKEN TO ISOLATE
KNOWN SOURCES OF IGNITION PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT ? **NO**

5. TYPE OF FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT UTILIZED:

- HANDHELD
- WHEELED UNIT
- FIXED CHEMICAL
- FIXED WATER
- NONE
- OTHER

INJURY/FATALITY/WITNESS ATTACHMENT

OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE INJURY
 CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE FATALITY
 OTHER WELDER WITNESS

NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE: **TX**

WORK PHONE: **(361) 775-1800** TOTAL OFFSHORE EXPERIENCE: YEARS

EMPLOYED BY:

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE INJURY
 CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE FATALITY
 OTHER WELDER HELPER WITNESS

NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE: **TX**

WORK PHONE: **(361) 775-1800** TOTAL OFFSHORE EXPERIENCE: YEARS

EMPLOYED BY:

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE: