

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
 GULF OF MEXICO REGION  
**ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT**

1. OCCURRED

DATE: **30-MAR-2007** TIME: **0650** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **BP America Production Company**

REPRESENTATIVE: **Darrell Boudreaux**

TELEPHONE: **(337) 735-5205**

CONTRACTOR: **Global Marine Drilling**

REPRESENTATIVE: **Harry Wilson**

TELEPHONE: **(281) 589-3862**

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

4. LEASE: **G24101**

AREA: **MC** LATITUDE:

BLOCK: **726** LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM:

RIG NAME: **GSF EXPLORER**

6. ACTIVITY:

- EXPLORATION(POE)  
 DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION  
 (DOCD/POD)

7. TYPE:

- HISTORIC INJURY
- REQUIRED EVACUATION
  - LTA (1-3 days)
  - LTA (>3 days)
  - RW/JT (1-3 days)
  - RW/JT (>3 days)
  - Other Injury

- FATALITY
- POLLUTION
- FIRE
- EXPLOSION

- LWC  HISTORIC BLOWOUT
- UNDERGROUND
  - SURFACE
  - DEVERTER
  - SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES

COLLISION  HISTORIC  >\$25K  <=\$25K

- STRUCTURAL DAMAGE
- CRANE
- OTHER LIFTING DEVICE **Top Drive**
- DAMAGED/DISABLED SAFETY SYS.
- INCIDENT >\$25K
- H2S/15MIN./20PPM
- REQUIRED MUSTER
- SHUTDOWN FROM GAS RELEASE
- OTHER

6. OPERATION:

- PRODUCTION
- DRILLING
- WORKOVER
- COMPLETION
- HELICOPTER
- MOTOR VESSEL
- PIPELINE SEGMENT NO.
- OTHER

8. CAUSE:

- EQUIPMENT FAILURE
- HUMAN ERROR
- EXTERNAL DAMAGE
- SLIP/TRIP/FALL
- WEATHER RELATED
- LEAK
- UPSET H2O TREATING
- OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID
- OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

9. WATER DEPTH: **4602** FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **45** MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION:  
SPEED: **25** M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION:  
SPEED: M.P.H.

13. SEA STATE: FT.

17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

While tripping out of the hole laying down drill pipe with the PRS-4i, a single joint of 5 7/8" drill pipe was set in the rotary and the PS 750 slips were set. The traveling block height was approximately 35 ft. in the air when the elevators were opened. The high clutch was then thought to have been engaged, and the traveling blocks began to move. Instead of hoisting, since the clutch was not actually engaged, when the driller increased the amperage on the draw works the traveling blocks began to descend. The top drive landed on and bent the joint of 5 7/8" drill pipe set in the rotary. The driller then heard a popping noise from the drill line, and observed slack in the draw works. Driller immediately applied the break for a "full stop" after the blocks had traveled 5 ft. total.

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

The driller did not verify the engagement of the high clutch prior to answering the phone. While his attention was momentarily diverted, he momentarily lost control of the traveling block.

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

**Immediate Cause:** Lack of Awareness/Attention - The high clutch was not engaged when the driller attempted to hoist the traveling block.

**Underlying Cause:** Training - Directly after attempting to engage the high clutch, the driller answered the phone momentarily diverting his attention from the traveling blocks.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED: NATURE OF DAMAGE:  
**Joint of drill pipe/Saver Sub Bent drill pipe.**  
**Top drive system.**

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): **\$5,000**

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

**Recommendations to prevent a recurrence of this event are as follows:**

**1) Post signs in all areas where critical equipment is operated not to use the phone while equipment is in use.**

**2) Research options on replacement of clutch control joy stick.**

**The New Orleans District makes no recommendations to the Office of Safety Management.**

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: **YES**

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

**Incident of Noncompliance G-110 was issued to document that:  
The driller performed an unsafe act which could have caused serious injury to personnel and equipment.**

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

**31-MAR-2007**

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

**Elbert Clemens / Darrel Williams /**

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**Troy Trosclair**

APPROVED

DATE: **22-MAY-2007**