

## MMS Incident Reporting Requirements

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### Title 30: Mineral Resources

#### [PART 250—OIL AND GAS AND SULPHUR OPERATIONS IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF](#)

##### [Subpart A—General](#)

##### [Information and Reporting Requirements](#)

**[NOTE: In the final rule, Section 250.190 was redesignated as Section 250.186 and new Sections 250.187 through 250.190 were added to read as set forth below.]**

#### **§ 250.187 What are MMS' incident reporting requirements?**

(a) You must report all incidents listed in §250.188(a) and (b) to the District Manager. The specific reporting requirements for these incidents are contained in §§250.189 and 250.190.

(b) These reporting requirements apply to incidents that occur on the area covered by your lease, right-of-use and easement, pipeline right-of-way, or other permit issued by MMS, and that are related to operations resulting from the exercise of your rights under your lease, right-of-use and easement, pipeline right-of-way, or permit.

(c) Nothing in this subpart relieves you from making notifications and reports of incidents that may be required by other regulatory agencies.

(d) You must report all spills of oil or other liquid pollutants in accordance with 30 CFR 254.46.

#### **§ 250.188 What incidents must I report to MMS and when must I report them?**

(a) You must report the following incidents to the District Manager immediately via oral communication, and provide a written follow-up report (hard copy or electronically transmitted) within 15 calendar days after the incident:

(1) All fatalities.

(2) All injuries that require the evacuation of the injured person(s) from the facility to shore or to another offshore facility.

(3) All losses of well control. "Loss of well control" means:

(i) Uncontrolled flow of formation or other fluids. The flow may be to an exposed formation (an underground blowout) or at the surface (a surface blowout);

(ii) Flow through a diverter; or

(iii) Uncontrolled flow resulting from a failure of surface equipment or procedures.

(4) All fires and explosions.

(5) All reportable releases of hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) gas, as defined in §250.490(l).

(6) All collisions that result in property or equipment damage greater than \$25,000. "Collision" means the act of a moving vessel (including an aircraft) striking another vessel, or striking a stationary vessel or object (e.g., a boat striking a drilling rig or platform). "Property or equipment damage" means the cost of labor and material to restore all affected items to their condition before the damage, including, but not limited to, the OCS facility, a vessel, helicopter, or equipment. It does not include the cost of salvage, cleaning, gas-freeing, dry docking, or demurrage.

(7) All incidents involving structural damage to an OCS facility. "Structural damage" means damage severe enough so that operations on the facility cannot continue until repairs are made.

- (8) All incidents involving crane or personnel/material handling operations.
- (9) All incidents that damage or disable safety systems or equipment (including firefighting systems).
- (b) You must provide a written report of the following incidents to the District Manager within 15 calendar days after the incident:
  - (1) Any injuries that result in one or more days away from work or one or more days on restricted work or job transfer. One or more days means the injured person was not able to return to work or to all of their normal duties the day after the injury occurred;
  - (2) All gas releases that initiate equipment or process shutdown;
  - (3) All incidents that require operations personnel on the facility to muster for evacuation for reasons not related to weather or drills;
  - (4) All other incidents, not listed in paragraph (a) of this section, resulting in property or equipment damage greater than \$25,000.

**§ 250.189 Reporting requirements for incidents requiring immediate notification.**

For an incident requiring immediate notification under §250.188(a), you must notify the District Manager via oral communication immediately after aiding the injured and stabilizing the situation. Your oral communication must provide the following information:

- (a) Date and time of occurrence;
- (b) Operator, and operator representative's, name and telephone number;
- (c) Contractor, and contractor representative's name and telephone number (if a contractor is involved in the incident or injury/fatality);
- (d) Lease number, OCS area, and block;
- (e) Platform/facility name and number, or pipeline segment number;
- (f) Type of incident or injury/fatality;
- (g) Operation or activity at time of incident (*i.e.*, drilling, production, workover, completion, pipeline, crane, etc.); and
- (h) Description of the incident, damage, or injury/fatality.

**§ 250.190 Reporting requirements for incidents requiring written notification.**

- (a) For any incident covered under §250.188, you must submit a written report within 15 calendar days after the incident to the District Manager. The report must contain the following information:
  - (1) Date and time of occurrence;
  - (2) Operator, and operator representative's name and telephone number;
  - (3) Contractor, and contractor representative's name and telephone number (if a contractor is involved in the incident or injury);
  - (4) Lease number, OCS area, and block;
  - (5) Platform/facility name and number, or pipeline segment number;

- (6) Type of incident or injury;
  - (7) Operation or activity at time of incident (*i.e.*, drilling, production, workover, completion, pipeline, crane etc.);
  - (8) Description of incident, damage, or injury (including days away from work, restricted work or job transfer), and any corrective action taken; and
  - (9) Property or equipment damage estimate (in U.S. dollars).
- (b) You may submit a report or form prepared for another agency in lieu of the written report required by paragraph (a) of this section, provided the report or form contains all required information.
- (c) The District Manager may require you to submit additional information about an incident on a case-by-case basis.

**§ 250.191 How does MMS conduct incident investigations?**

Any investigation that MMS conducts under the authority of sections 22(d)(1) and (2) of the Act (43 U.S.C. 1348(d)(1) and (2)) is a fact-finding proceeding with no adverse parties. The purpose of the investigation is to prepare a public report that determines the cause or causes of the incident. The investigation may involve panel meetings conducted by a chairperson appointed by MMS. The following requirements apply to any panel meetings involving persons giving testimony:

- (a) A person giving testimony may have legal or other representative(s) present to provide advice or counsel while the person is giving testimony. The chairperson may require a verbatim transcript to be made of all oral testimony. The chairperson also may accept a sworn written statement in lieu of oral testimony.
- (b) Only panel members, and any experts the panel deems necessary, may address questions to any person giving testimony.
- (c) The chairperson may issue subpoenas to persons to appear and provide testimony or documents at a panel meeting. A subpoena may not require a person to attend a panel meeting held at a location more than 100 miles from where a subpoena is served.
- (d) Any person giving testimony may request compensation for mileage, and fees for services, within 90 days after the panel meeting. The compensated expenses must be similar to mileage and fees the U.S. District Courts allow.

**Title 30: Mineral Resources**

[PART 250—OIL AND GAS AND SULPHUR OPERATIONS IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF](#)  
[Subpart D—Oil and Gas Drilling Operations](#)  
[Hydrogen Sulfide](#)

**§ 250.490 Hydrogen sulfide.**

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(1) *Do I need to notify MMS in the event of an H<sub>2</sub>S release?* You must notify MMS without delay in the event of a gas release which results in a 15-minute time-weighted average atmospheric concentration of H<sub>2</sub>S of 20 ppm or more anywhere on the OCS facility. You must report these gas releases to the District Manager immediately by oral communication, with a written follow-up report within 15 days, pursuant to §§250.188 through 250.190.

**[NOTE:** *The new rule text provided above required some renumbering of the section numbers in 30 CFR 250. Below are the sections that contain references that were affected by this renumbering. To see how the sections below were affected, please see the Federal Register notice containing the final rule -- 71 FR 19644, Apr. 17, 2006.]*

**§ 250.513, § 250.1102, and § 250.1617**

