

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

1. OCCURRED

DATE: **21-MAR-2008** TIME: **1105** HOURS

2. OPERATOR:

Shell Offshore Inc.

REPRESENTATIVE: **DiCarlo, Theresa**

TELEPHONE: **(504) 728-6237**

CONTRACTOR:

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

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

4. LEASE:

AREA: **WD** LATITUDE:
 BLOCK: **143** LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM:

A-PROCESS

RIG NAME:

6. ACTIVITY:

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

7. TYPE:

HISTORIC INJURY
 REQUIRED EVACUATION 1
 LTA (1-3 days)
 LTA (>3 days) 1
 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
 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: **369** FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **18** MI.

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

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

13. SEA STATE: FT.

17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

On March 21, 2008, at 1105 hours, on Shell Offshore Inc.'s, Right of Way (ROW) OCS-G 15988, West Delta (WD) Block 143 A-Process Platform, Complex No. 23846, an employee was injured while investigating a glycol leak. The Injured Person (IP) observed glycol leaking from a 1" line approximately 8' above the deck. The IP used a step ladder to access the area and began removing insulation to expose the leak. At that point, a 1" valve on the leaking glycol line came free exposing the IP to the hot glycol. The IP jumped off of the ladder, in an attempt to escape the hot glycol and suffered a broken ankle and 1st and 2nd degree burns to his upper body. The operator did not isolate or shut-in and bleed down the unit before investigating the leak. The IP was not wearing the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when exposing hot surfaces to avoid burns. As a result of the incident, 70 bbls of monoethylene glycol (MEG) was spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. The Glycol Regeneration Unit (GRU) was shut down and barricaded. The valve was sent to Shell's Westhollow Research Center for analysis. Initial findings suggest corrosion due to high pH from caustics introduced into the system.

An onsite accident investigation on March 25, 2008, resulted in an issuance of two "After the Fact" Incidents of Noncompliance (INCs).

G-111 -Failure to maintain equipment in a safe condition. There was external corrosion on the MEG system and internal corrosion on the galvanized nipple installed on heat exchanger HAP-513.

E-100 - Failure to prevent pollution of offshore waters. 70 bbls of MEG discharged overboard.

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

External corrosion on MEG system and internal corrosion on galvanized nipple.
Failure to shut-in and bleed down equipment.

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

The nipple that failed was galvanized steel not carbon. High amounts of caustic probably contributed to the corrosion of the nipple. Galvanized steel is more prone to corrosion.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

None

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

None

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

\$

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

The New Orleans District makes no recommendations to MMS.

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

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

G-111 -Failure to maintain equipment in a safe condition. There was external corrosion on the MEG system and internal corrosion on the galvanized nipple installed on heat exchanger HAP-513.

E-100 - Failure to prevent pollution of offshore waters. 70 bbls of MEG discharged overboard.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

Troy Trosclair

APPROVED

DATE: **09-MAY-2008**

