

# Safety Alert



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

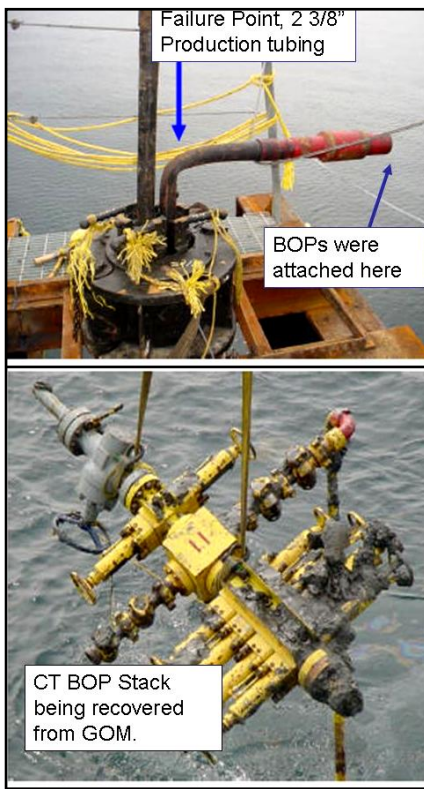
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Contact: Jack Williams  
(504) 736-1757

## Collapse of Pipe Supporting Coil Tubing Causes Drowning

A P&A operation using a unique work platform and special procedure was being conducted on a toppled caisson bent almost flat by a hurricane. A crew was rigging up coil tubing on top a 3-ft stub of 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch production tubing. The BOP stack had been set atop the tubing stub and the crane was preparing to hoist the injection head.

The BOP assembly suddenly swayed and toppled into the ocean as the 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ -in tubing buckled. A technician sitting on top the BOP stack and connected to it by his fall protection harness was pulled into the ocean and drowned. A complete accident account is available on the MMS website at: [http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/offshore/safety/acc\\_repo/accindex.html](http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/offshore/safety/acc_repo/accindex.html)



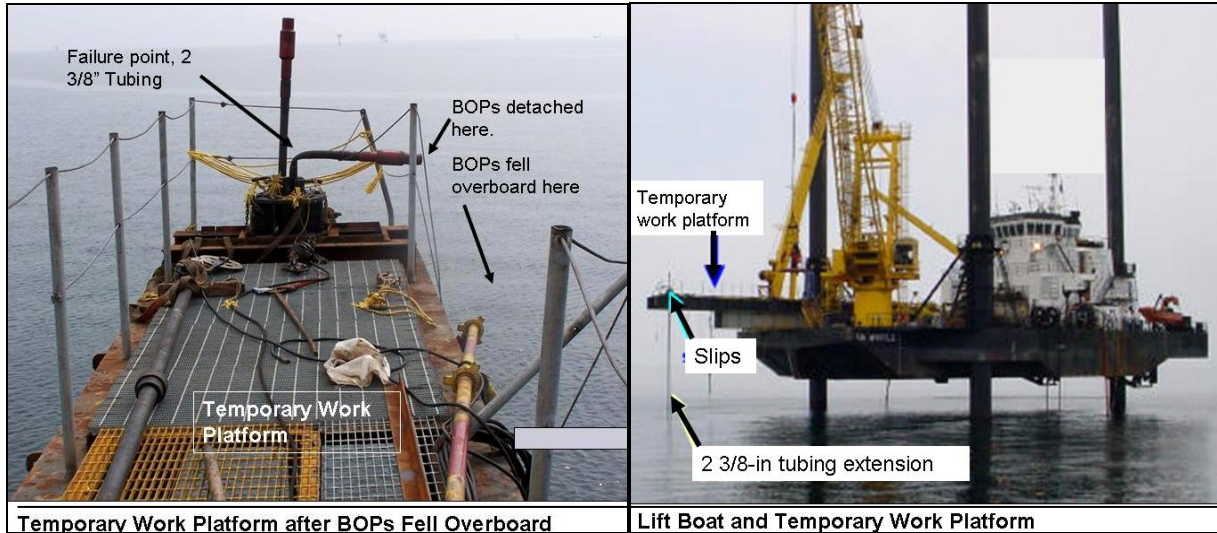
The MMS investigation concluded that the 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch tubing probably could not safely hold the BOP stack without auxiliary stabilizing support. The MMS also concluded that:

- (1) Planning for the operation was incomplete. It did not fully address problems created by the unique work platform, and did not include service companies in the planning process;
- (2) No JSA meeting or shift-change supervisors meeting addressed the special needs imposed by the unique rig-up;
- (3) No one involved in the project, including planners, engineers, and supervisors, recognized the potential for failure of the 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch tubing supporting the BOP stack.

The MMS recommends the Operators ensure the following:

- *Operators and contractors should be aware of the danger of collapse of the support base for coil tubing assemblies, especially during high rig-ups.*
- *The Operators should review their planning process and ensure all details of a unique, special operation are reviewed by fully experienced personnel.*
- *Operators should consider including contractors in the planning process for unique and unusual jobs.*

- Operators should ensure offshore supervisors are familiar with all aspects of planned, unusual operations.
- Operators and contractors should ensure that the details of all plans are fully communicated to all parties and shifts by means of JSA meetings and shift supervisor hand-off meetings.



Temporary Work Platform after BOPs Fell Overboard

Lift Boat and Temporary Work Platform