



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

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Notice No. 105

July 28, 1981

OCS Operations Safety Alert

Welding Accident

Hot slag from a welder's torch on an upper deck was blown by the wind into a 2-inch opening in the top of a 500 bbl. capacity stock tank resulting in an explosion and a small fire.

As part of a platform modification process, the 2-inch sump pump discharge line on top of the tank had been disconnected and left open to the atmosphere. When the explosion occurred, the tank's top section exploded, peeling back more than half of the section. There was damage to the electrical cables and support tray above the tank. There was no injury to personnel. The fire was confined to the tank drip pan and was immediately extinguished.

To prevent a recurrence of this type of accident, the operator will emphasize the following to its personnel:

1. The importance of communication, work planning, and supervisory control when more than one job is in progress.
2. The importance and sole duty of a fire watch.

[signed] D.W. Solanas

Deputy Conservation Manager

Offshore Operations Support

Gulf of Mexico OCS Region