



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

Notice No. 015

November 27, 1974

OCS Operations Safety Alert

Fatality--Lubricator Fails

A wireline helper was fatally injured recently on an offshore production platform when a wireline lubricator ruptured under pressure.

The wireline crew had rigged up on the well and were going in the hole with the tools when the accident occurred. The lubricator ruptured in the weld between the well-adapter nipple and the lubricator break-out union. The escaping pressure struck the wireline helper, blowing him down a stairway and inflicting fatal injuries.

The well-adapter nipple was rented from a third party and was not a part of the lubricator owned by the wireline company performing the work.

To prevent recurrence of this type of accident, the operator is exercising greater caution in the choice of third-party rental equipment to insure that adequate quality and strength are present to safely contain well pressures.

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Gulf of Mexico Area