



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

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Notice No. 002

December 13, 1972

### OCS Operations Safety Alert

#### Shallow Drilling Hazards

The recent blowouts in wells drilling at shallow depth in the South Pass Area off the Louisiana coast suggest that additional measures should be taken while drilling to assure the early detection of shallow hydrocarbons. The use of gas detecting equipment for continuous monitoring of the hydrocarbon content of the returning mud stream on all exploratory wells drilling on OCS leases in the Gulf of Mexico Area is recommended from the time conductor pipe is set until total depth is reached

It is recommended that all operators review 30 CFR 250.41 and OCS Order No. 2 and caution drilling personnel as to proper procedures to be followed in case of threatened loss of well control at shallow depths.

[signed] J.B. Lowenhaupt

for Robert F. Evans Oil and Gas Supervisor