



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

Notice No. 060

March 21, 1977

OCS Operations Safety Alert

Gas Starter Fire -- Man Burned

A flash fire recently occurred on an offshore production platform resulting in burns to a mechanic.

The mechanic was utilizing a gas operated starter to start a compressor unit. The screws holding the manufacturer's name plate on the starter case worked loose and blew out leaving four holes through the body of the starter. Gas leaking through these holes accumulated in the immediate vicinity and was ignited by a spark from the starter bendix contacting the ring gear on the flywheel. The fire inflicted second-degree burns to the face, arms, and hands of the mechanic. The fire was quickly extinguished.

To prevent a recurrence of this accident the operator is taking the following action:

1. All starters of this type will have the existing four name tag screws removed and new screws will be installed.
2. All of these screws will be installed with a locking and sealing compound applied to the threads.

[signed] D.J. Bourgeois

for D.W. Solanas

Oil and Gas Supervisor

Field Operations

Gulf of Mexico Area