



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

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OCS Operations Safety Alert

Oil Spill -- Fuel Transfer Hose Broke

In the last year there have been eight oil spills reported by OCS Gulf of Mexico Area operators that were the direct result of fuel transfer operations. Four of the spills were the result of equipment failure and four were the result of inattentive personnel.

The worst of these spills resulted in an estimated 300 barrels of diesel fuel being spilled into the Gulf. A motor vessel was pumping diesel to a platform rig through a 2" hose. During this operation a hose coupling parted beneath the water level. This failure went undetected for approximately two hours, thereby allowing the large quantity of diesel fuel to be pumped into the Gulf.

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

1. All fuel transfer lines will be inspected prior to transfer operations.
2. The transfer operation will be monitored at the pumping and receiving stations until completed.

[signed] D.W. Solanas

Oil and Gas Supervisor

Field Operations

Gulf of Mexico Area