

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT  
GULF OF MEXICO REGION

# ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

**For Public Release**

1. OCCURRED

DATE: **29-APR-2012** TIME: **1400** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **W & T Energy VI, LLC**

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

CONTRACTOR: **Nabors Drilling Inc.**

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

- STRUCTURAL DAMAGE
- CRANE
- OTHER LIFTING DEVICE
- DAMAGED/DISABLED SAFETY SYS.
- INCIDENT >\$25K
- H2S/15MIN./20PPM
- REQUIRED MUSTER
- SHUTDOWN FROM GAS RELEASE
- OTHER **Electrical Arc Flash**

3. OPERATOR/CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE/SUPERVISOR  
ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

6. OPERATION:

4. LEASE: **G19931**

AREA: **MC** LATITUDE:

BLOCK: **243** LONGITUDE:

- PRODUCTION
- DRILLING
- WORKOVER
- COMPLETION
- HELICOPTER
- MOTOR VESSEL
- PIPELINE SEGMENT NO.
- OTHER

5. PLATFORM: **A (MATTERHORN SE**

RIG NAME: **NABORS SUPER S.D. XIX**

6. ACTIVITY:  EXPLORATION (POE)  
 DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION  
(DOCD/POD)

8. CAUSE:

7. TYPE:

- HISTORIC INJURY
- REQUIRED EVACUATION 1
- LTA (1-3 days)
- LTA (>3 days) 1
- RW/JT (1-3 days)
- RW/JT (>3 days)
- Other Injury

- EQUIPMENT FAILURE
- HUMAN ERROR
- EXTERNAL DAMAGE
- SLIP/TRIP/FALL
- WEATHER RELATED
- LEAK
- UPSET H2O TREATING
- OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID
- OTHER

- FATALITY
- POLLUTION
- FIRE
- EXPLOSION

- LWC  HISTORIC BLOWOUT
- UNDERGROUND
  - SURFACE
  - DEVERTER
  - SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES

COLLISION  HISTORIC  >\$25K  <=\$25K

9. WATER DEPTH: **2816** FT.
10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **24** MI.
11. WIND DIRECTION:  
SPEED: M.P.H.
12. CURRENT DIRECTION:  
SPEED: M.P.H.
13. SEA STATE: **5** FT.

17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

On 29 April 2012, while unplugging and plugging an electrical cord plug-in of a transfer pump, from a 20 amp receptacle to a 30 amp receptacle, with the breaker on, an Injured Person (IP) was struck by an electrical flash and suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns to his face, neck, hands, and arms when the plug and cord explode. The IP also received burns to his lower back when a fall against a metal handrail behind him resulted in a positive connection. There was a main breaker but it was not turned off. There was no Job Safety Analysis (JSA) issued to make certain that the employees were properly informed of the dangers and the steps needed to insure that all electrical current was off. Nabors Offshore's glove and FRC (fire resistant clothing) policy was not followed. The IP did not don proper personal protective equipment (PPE). He was wearing two T-shirts and pants instead of fire retardant clothing and was not wearing gloves. The IP was transported to West Jefferson Medical Center by helicopter.

Sequence of Events

At the time of the incident, the Rig Manager was assisting the Derrick Hand (IP) with this task. An electric cord for transfer pump 20 hp motor was being moved from a 20 amp plug-in to a 30 amp plug-in. The Electrician was busy on the rig floor and unable to come down and perform the task himself so, he verbally instructed the Rig Manager how to proceed. The Rig Manager and Derrick Hand made certain that the switch on the transfer pump motor was off. The panel board for the 30 amp plug-in has a push button on/off switch which lights up when the cord and plug in are connected; since the cord was not connected, the light did not function. The Derrick Hand repeatedly pushed the on/off button, but he was unable to determine if the current was on or off. The Rig Manager pressed the safety lock on the receptacle and the Derrick Hand attempted to place the plug-in into the receptacle; since the current was on, the receptacle arced toward the cord and both the receptacle and plug exploded injuring the Derrick Hand.

18. LIST THE PROBABLE CAUSE(S) OF ACCIDENT:

- 1) The transfer of an electrical plug from a 20 amp receptacle to a 30 amp receptacle, - without first turning off the breaker, resulted in an electrical flash that caused the - plug and cord to explode.
- 2) Lack of complete understanding of all the safety procedures.
- 3) Lack of proper PPE for the task at hand. -

19. LIST THE CONTRIBUTING CAUSE(S) OF ACCIDENT:

- 1) Not being properly trained and not familiar with the equipment.
- 2) Nabors Offshore's glove and FRC policy was not followed. -

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

Electric plug in and power cord

Destroyed

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

\$300

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

The BSEE New Orleans District makes no recommendations to the Agency.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

G-110 (W) 107(a): Being unable to determine if equipment was off or on, personnel attempted to plug an electric cord resulting in an electrical flash and causing 2nd and 3rd degree burns on the Derrick Hand.

G-112 (W) 107 : (1) Personnel not being trained resulted in 2nd and 3rd burns on Derrick Hand, (2) Drilling rig personnel was not attired (FRC and Gloves ) which contributed to burns during an electrical flash incident.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

01-MAY-2012 -

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Joe Butts / Robert Neal /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: NO

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

David J. Trocquet

APPROVED

DATE: 16-AUG-2012

# INJURY/FATALITY/WITNESS ATTACHMENT

OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE

INJURY

CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE

FATALITY

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS

NAME :

HOME ADDRESS :

CITY :

STATE :

WORK PHONE :

TOTAL OFFSHORE EXPERIENCE :

YEARS

EMPLOYED BY :

BUSINESS ADDRESS :

CITY :

STATE :

ZIP CODE :

