

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: 03-MAR-2012 TIME: 2130 HOURS
2. OPERATOR: **Murphy Exploration & Production Co**  
REPRESENTATIVE:  
TELEPHONE:  
CONTRACTOR: **Nabors Drilling Inc.**  
REPRESENTATIVE:  
TELEPHONE:
3. OPERATOR/CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE/SUPERVISOR  
ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:
4. LEASE: **G21790**  
AREA: **GC** LATITUDE: **27.62484093**  
BLOCK: **338** LONGITUDE: **-90.44104746**
5. PLATFORM: **A-Front Runner**  
RIG NAME: **NABORS MODS 200**
6. ACTIVITY:  EXPLORATION (POE)  
 DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION  
(DOCD/POD)
7. TYPE:  
 HISTORIC INJURY  
 REQUIRED EVACUATION  
 LTA (1-3 days)  
 LTA (>3 days)  
 RW/JT (1-3 days)  
 RW/JT (>3 days)  
 Other Injury  
 FATALITY  
 POLLUTION  
 FIRE  
 EXPLOSION  
LWC  HISTORIC BLOWOUT  
 UNDERGROUND  
 SURFACE  
 DEVERTER  
 SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES  
COLLISION  HISTORIC  >\$25K  <=\$25K
6. OPERATION:  
 PRODUCTION  
 DRILLING  
 WORKOVER  
 COMPLETION  
 HELICOPTER  
 MOTOR VESSEL  
 PIPELINE SEGMENT NO.  
 OTHER
8. CAUSE:  
 EQUIPMENT FAILURE  
 HUMAN ERROR  
 EXTERNAL DAMAGE  
 SLIP/TRIP/FALL  
 WEATHER RELATED  
 LEAK  
 UPSET H2O TREATING  
 OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID  
 OTHER **Prod. SI, Comp. BD**
9. WATER DEPTH: **3330 FT.**
10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **103 MI.**
11. WIND DIRECTION: **NNE**  
SPEED: **53 M.P.H.**
12. CURRENT DIRECTION: **SSW**  
SPEED: **1 M.P.H.**
13. SEA STATE: **10 FT.**
- STRUCTURAL DAMAGE  
 CRANE  
 OTHER LIFTING DEVICE  
 DAMAGED/DISABLED SAFETY SYS.  
 INCIDENT >\$25K  
 H2S/15MIN./20PPM  
 REQUIRED MUSTER  
 SHUTDOWN FROM GAS RELEASE  
 OTHER **Flammable Materials**

17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

Murphy Exploration & Production Company had a small fire on GC 338 A (Front Runner platform). The fire occurred in the monkey board area of the derrick on the Nabors Mods 200 platform drilling rig. The rig was warm stacked (idle and ready) and the operation of removing the derrick for onshore inspection was shut down due to high winds and poor weather conditions.

During this time of high winds the platform production system had an upset and the gas in the system blew down through the compressor to the flare (which is continually lit to burn off excess gas). The winds at this time were in excess of 45-53 mph and the direction was out of the north/north east which blew the flare's flames toward the rig. The flames ignited the flammable materials in the monkey board area which consisted of coco mats, rope, and an air-line. No personnel were in the derrick at the time of the fire/compressor blow down and no one was injured.

As a result of this incident, Murphy changed the flare nozzle to direct flow away from the derrick. Murphy conducted a radiation study and with the new nozzle in place, danger exists for the flare to be blown back onto the derrick when winds exceed 45 mph. No personnel would be allowed in the derrick with winds at that level.

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

- 1) Production Shut-In
- 2) Compressor Blow-Down
- 3) Wind Direction
- 4) Wind Speed

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

- 1) Flammable Materials in Derrick

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Nabors Mods 200 drilling rig was located in the middle of the production platform to the south of the flare boom. The flare boom was located on the north east corner of the facility and was approximately 208 feet away from the rig derrick.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

coco mats, rope, and an air line

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

burned

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

\$200

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECCURRANCE NARRATIVE:

The BSEE Houma District makes no recommendations to the Agency.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: **NO**

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

**n/a**

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

**03-MAR-2012**

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

**Jerry Freeman /**

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**Bryan Domangue**

APPROVED

DATE: **14-AUG-2012**

# FIRE/EXPLOSION ATTACHMENT

1. SOURCE OF IGNITION: **flare boom (constant flame)**

2. TYPE OF FUEL:
- GAS
  - OIL
  - DIESEL
  - CONDENSATE
  - HYDRAULIC
  - OTHER

3. FUEL SOURCE: **compressor blow down**

4. WERE PRECAUTIONS OR ACTIONS TAKEN TO ISOLATE  
KNOWN SOURCES OF IGNITION PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT ? **NO**

5. TYPE OF FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT UTILIZED:
- HANDHELD
  - WHEELED UNIT
  - FIXED CHEMICAL
  - FIXED WATER
  - NONE
  - OTHER **The wind extinguished the flame  
before equipment was needed.**

