

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-SEP-2012 TIME: 0455 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Black Elk Energy Offshore Operati

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

CONTRACTOR:

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

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

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

6. OPERATION:

4. LEASE: 00495

AREA: VR LATITUDE:

BLOCK: 124 LONGITUDE:

- PRODUCTION
- DRILLING
- WORKOVER
- COMPLETION
- HELICOPTER
- MOTOR VESSEL
- PIPELINE SEGMENT NO.
- OTHER **P&A**

5. PLATFORM: E

RIG NAME:

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: 70 FT.
10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 MI.
11. WIND DIRECTION: W
SPEED: 10 M.P.H.
12. CURRENT DIRECTION:
SPEED: M.P.H.
13. SEA STATE: 4 FT.

17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

On September 29, 2012, Freedom Well Services was on location at VR-124 for Black Elk Energy conducting Permanent Abandonment (PA) operations on the E-4 well. On September 28th at 18:00 hours, a safety meeting and Job Safety Analysis (JSA) was performed on rigging up casing jacks and pulling the 10¾" and 24" casings. At 03:00 hours on September 29th, jacking of the casing began. At approximately 04:55hrs the casing reached the bottom set of split bowls in the jack. The bowls started to rise with the casing, jacking stopped and the Injured Person (IP) attempted to manually remove the bowls by hand. The split bowl (weighing ± 150 lbs.) slid off the jack stand crushing the IP's finger between the hand rail of the work basket and the split bowl. The IP's finger was cleaned, wrapped, and he was prepared for medical evacuation. Upon arrival at the Hospital the IP received sutures for a laceration and x-rays revealed that the tip of the finger was fractured.

On October 2, 2012, BSEE inspectors arrived for an onsite inspection. After reviewing statements, supporting documents and inspection of equipment involved, the following was found: On September 6, 2012, during casing removal when the last joint of casing passed through the bottom of the casing jacks, a half side of the split bowl was lifted up, and subsequently flipped on its side and fell through the opening under the jacks to the cellar deck below. Black Elk Energy filed an internal HSE incident Report. On September 23, 2012, while installing bowls into the casing jack, the Black Elk safety representative shut down operations to discuss concerns with the lifting eyes not being properly installed and to discuss proper lifting procedures to remove the bowls using the crane. Operations continued after the discussion with no changes to the lifting eyes.

Inspection of the casing slip bowls revealed that the threaded holes being used to install the lifting eyes were worn, corroded, and filled with debris that would not allow lifting eyes to be properly installed. Improperly installed lifting eyes prevented the crane from being used to remove the casing slip bowls and they would have to be removed manually by personnel. After reviewing statements, it was found that the normal practice for removal of the bowls is to install lifting eyes into the bowls and use the crane to remove bowls.

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

1. The threaded holes used for the installation and removal of the lifting eyes were worn, corroded, and filled with debris that would not allow lifting eyes to be properly installed. Improperly installed lifting eyes would not allow crane to be used for removal of slip bowls.
2. The IP attempted to manually remove the bowls by hand.

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

No corrective action was taken when the Black Elk safety representative shut down operations to discuss concerns with the lifting eyes not threading completely into the casing slip bowls.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Black Elk and Freedom Well Service could not provide any written procedures for removing the casing slip bowls from the jack stand.

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

The Lake Charles District has no recommendations to the Regional Office of Safety Management.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: **YES**

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

G-111 The threaded holes used for the installation and removal of the lifting eyes were worn, corroded, and filled with debris that would not allow lifting eyes to be properly installed.

G-110 Injured Person (IP) attempted to manually remove the bowls without the aid of a lifting device.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

02-OCT-2012

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

Larry Miller / Mitchell Klumpp /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

Larry Williamson

APPROVED

DATE: **13-DEC-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 :

