

# SAFETY BULLETIN



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## Personal Protective Equipment Limits Thermal Exposure

In November 2016, a fire occurred on an offshore production platform in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in burn injuries to three workers. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) investigation to determine the cause(s) of the incident is still ongoing.



*Burn Victim, Showing Limits of Thermal Exposure provided by the use of PPE/FRC*

All three individuals were reported to have been wearing safety glasses, hard hats and Flame Resistant Clothing (FRC), although at least one was believed to have rolled up his sleeves. Their injuries were described as a combination of first and second degree burns to their hands, forearms, neck and face. As is evident in the above photos, the proper use of FRC and other personal protective equipment (PPE) likely prevented additional injuries. .

### Therefore, the BSEE recommends that operators:

- Ensure all company, contractor, and visiting personnel properly wear PPE where the potential exists for thermal exposure from fire. [Am I wearing my PPE correctly?](#)
- Ensure that the PPE selected for the job reflects the probable and possible hazards of the job. [Am I wearing the correct PPE?](#)
- Refer to NFPA 2113, *Standard on Selection, Care, Use and Maintenance of Flame-Resistant Garments for Protection of Industrial Personnel Against Short-Duration Thermal Exposures from Fire*, when prescribing FRC to employees.
- Comply with Occupational Safety and Health Standard 1910.132 for Personal Protective Equipment, as applicable, and OSHA's memorandums and interpretations of those regulations.

A **Safety Bulletin** is a tool used by BSEE to share the lessons learned from an incident or a near miss. It also contains recommendations that should help prevent the recurrence of such an incident on the Outer Continental Shelf.