

Joint Information Center



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security



WALTER OIL & GAS CORPORATION

South Timbalier 220 Well Control Response Factsheet

Background

Walter Oil & Gas Corporation (Walter) experienced a loss of control of Well A-3 at approximately 8:45 a.m. July 23 at South Timbalier Block 220, while doing completion work on a sidetrack well to prepare the well for production. The operator reported the safe evacuation of 44 personnel from the Hercules 265 jack-up rig. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) confirmed the leaking natural gas ignited at 10:45 p.m. CDT July 23. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) confirmed July 25 the well flow subsided after a natural bridging process suppressed the fire.

Response Efforts

- Safety of people and protection of the environment are the top priorities of BSEE, USCG and Walter, which stood up a Unified Command to oversee and coordinate response efforts to secure the well.
- USCG established a 500-meter security zone around the rig and has a vessel onsite monitoring the area to ensure safety.
- Gas monitoring equipment will be deployed around the perimeter of the rig to help ensure safe operations.
- Unified Command continues to analyze and review all options for a safe resolution.

Learn More

Response effort updates are posted at www.bsee.gov.

Contact

A Joint Information Center, established to answer questions and provide information, can be reached at (504) 736-2595.

