

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: 06-FEB-2016 TIME: 1815 HOURS

2. OPERATOR: Shell Offshore Inc.

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

CONTRACTOR: NOBLE DRILLING (U.S.) 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

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

6. OPERATION:

4. LEASE: G17565

AREA: AC LATITUDE:

BLOCK: 857 LONGITUDE:

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

5. PLATFORM:

RIG NAME: NOBLE DON TAYLOR

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

8. CAUSE:

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

7. TYPE:

HISTORIC INJURY

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

- FATALITY
- POLLUTION
- FIRE
- EXPLOSION

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

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

9. WATER DEPTH: 2449 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 128 MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: NNW  
SPEED: 28 M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: E  
SPEED: 1 M.P.H.

13. SEA STATE: 2 FT.

Crew members were in the process of pulling riser after the completion of the well. Injured Person (IP) was working from a work basket over the moon pool. IP was removing MUX cable clamps with an impact wrench while reaching from the work basket. As the IP reached out to remove one of the cable clamps, he heard a popping sound. Immediately following the popping sound the IP felt severe pain in his lower back and numbness in his right leg. The IP managed to safely operate the work basket to an area where he could receive assistance from coworkers. IP's coworkers helped remove him from the work basket and then helped lay him down on the deck. Shortly after the IP was laid on the deck, his coworkers helped the IP to his feet and carried him to the rig hospital. The IP received treatment and care from the medic from 18:15 on 2/6/2016 until approximately 08:30 on 2/8/16 when he was evacuated via helicopter to West Isle Urgent Care in Galveston, TX. IP spent the next three days being evaluated by doctors. IP was prescribed narcotics, and the doctor ordered x-rays and an MRI. The IP stated he was in pain and experienced discomfort even when the doctor released him for full work duty without any restrictions on 2/11/16. IP flew back to the Noble Don Taylor in the morning of 2/12/16. When BSEE arrived on location on 2/13/16 Noble personnel told them the IP was fine and was released for full duty by medical personnel. While the IP was walking in for his investigation interview, BSEE observed the IP hunched to the side in discomfort. BSEE Investigators asked if the IP felt he could carry out his job responsibilities as a Floor Man at 100 percent. The IP responded by saying he could probably only conduct 50-60 percent of his duties at best. The IP's immediate supervisor, the Assistant Driller, stated he would not feel comfortable with the IP working on the crew because it would be unsafe for the IP and the crew. Noble personnel decided the IP would work in the office with restricted duties until further notice.

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

Work basket is unable to fully reach the work area, which requires the worker to overextend while removing the MUX cable clamps.

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

Working with an impact wrench while body is extended.

## 20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

None

## 21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

None

## NATURE OF DAMAGE:

None

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL):

\$

**For Public Release**

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRENCE NARRATIVE:

**No recommendations at this time.**

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

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

**G-132 (W) Incident of Noncompliance and G-110 (W) Incident of Noncompliance. See attachments for complete INC's.**

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

**13-FEB-2016**

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:

**Jacob Trevino / Casey Conklin /**

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

PANEL FORMED: **NO**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**John McCarroll**

APPROVED

DATE:

**14-APR-2016**