UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
GULF OF MEXICO REGION
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. OCCURRED

DATE: 23–MAR–2005  TIME: 2300 HOURS

8. CAUSE:

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

2. OPERATOR: Marlin Energy Offshore, L.L.C.

REPRESENTATIVE: Cedric Broussard

TELEPHONE: (832) 200–7373

9. WATER DEPTH: 40 FT.

3. LEASE: 00263

AREA: ST  LATITUDE: 29.01448641

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 18 MI.

BLOCK: 21  LONGITUDE: −90.27196512

11. WIND DIRECTION: SSW

4. PLATFORM:

RIG NAME THE 156

SPEED: 5 M.P.H.

5. ACTIVITY:

☐ EXPLORATION (POE)

☒ DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION (DOCD/POD)

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: NNE

SPEED: 2 M.P.H.

6. TYPE:

☒ FIRE

13. SEA STATE: 3 FT.

☐ EXPLOSION

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

☐ BLOWOUT

Cedric Broussard

☐ COLLISION

CITY: Lafayette  STATE: LA

☐ INJURY NO. 0

TELEPHONE: (337) 991–9903

☐ FATALITY NO. 0

CONTRACTOR: TODCO

☐ POLLUTION

☐ OTHER

7. OPERATION:

☐ PRODUCTION

☐ DRILLING

14. INJURY NO. 0

☐ WORKOVER

☐ COMPLETION

☐ MOTOR VESSEL

☐ PIPELINE SEGMENT NO. ______

☐ OTHER

☐ POLLUTION

CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE/
SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

☐ OTHER

Mike Lovell

CITY: Houston  STATE: TX

TELEPHONE: (713) 278–6000
17. DESCRIBE IN SEQUENCE HOW ACCIDENT HAPPENED:

After driving the caisson, the operator sniffed the area for gas. At this time the 16" casing did not have any pressure on the annulus. The lessee was cutting on the 48" X 60" caisson at the 26' elevation. The operations were completed and the Texas deck was removed. The iron was still hot and the VR plug installed in the 16" annulus started leaking gas. This gas ignited thus producing flames about 1.5' long. An employee rode the Texas deck down to the wellhead and extinguished the fire with a 30 pound dry chemical fire extinguisher. After the fire, 300 pounds of pressure was found on the annulus. There were no injuries or pollution as a result of this incident.

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

The VR plug was damaged during driving over wellhead.

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

It is unknown why there was gas leaking after the initial gas sniffing. But the initial sniffing indicated no gas.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

All hot work was stopped and the fire was extinguished. To prevent reoccurrence, they installed a tapped blind flange with a 2" bull plug.
21. PROPERTY DAMAGED: none
   NATURE OF DAMAGE: n/a

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): $

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:
   Due to the specific nature of this incident, the Houma District has nothing to
   report to the Regional Office.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: NO

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:
   n/a

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:
   25-MAR-2005

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:
   Darrell Griffin / Amy Gresham / Freddie Mosely /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
   PANEL FORMED: NO

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:
   Michael J. Saucier

   APPROVED
   DATE: 04-MAY-2005
1. SOURCE OF IGNITION: **cutting on 48" X 60" caisson**

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

3. FUEL SOURCE: **VR plug in annulus started leaking gas**

4. WERE PRECAUTIONS OR ACTIONS TAKEN TO ISOLATE KNOWN SOURCES OF IGNITION PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT?  
   - [x] NO

5. TYPE OF FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT UTILIZED:  
   - [x] HANDHELD  
   - [ ] WHEELED UNIT  
   - [ ] FIXED CHEMICAL  
   - [ ] FIXED WATER  
   - [ ] NONE  
   - [ ] OTHER