

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

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

REPRESENTATIVE: **Cedric Broussard**

TELEPHONE: **(832) 200-7373**

3. LEASE: **00263**

AREA: **ST** LATITUDE: **29.01448641**

BLOCK: **21** LONGITUDE: **-90.27196512**

4. PLATFORM:

RIG NAME **THE 156**

5. ACTIVITY:  EXPLORATION(POE)

DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION  
(DOCD/POD)

6. TYPE:  FIRE

EXPLOSION

BLOWOUT

COLLISION

INJURY NO. 0

FATALITY NO. 0

POLLUTION

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

7. OPERATION:  PRODUCTION

DRILLING

WORKOVER

COMPLETION

MOTOR VESSEL

PIPELINE SEGMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

8. CAUSE:  EQUIPMENT FAILURE

HUMAN ERROR

EXTERNAL DAMAGE

SLIP/TRIP/FALL

WEATHER RELATED

LEAK

UPSET H2O TREATING

OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID

OTHER Damaged VR Plug

9. WATER DEPTH: **40** FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **18** MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: **SSW**

SPEED: **5** M.P.H.

12. CURRENT DIRECTION: **NNE**

SPEED: **2** M.P.H.

13. SEA STATE: **3** FT.

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

**Cedric Broussard**

CITY: **Lafayette** STATE: **LA**

TELEPHONE: **(337) 991-9903**

CONTRACTOR: **TODCO**

CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE/  
SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

**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 RECURRENCE 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**

OCS REPORT:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

**Michael J. Saucier**

APPROVED

DATE: **04-MAY-2005**

# FIRE/EXPLOSION ATTACHMENT

1. SOURCE OF IGNITION: **cutting on 48" X 60" caisson**

2. TYPE OF FUEL:  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 ? **NO**

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