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: 08-JUL-2012   TIME: 1030  HOURS

2. OPERATOR: GOM Shelf LLC
   REPRESENTATIVE: 
   TELEPHONE: 
   CONTRACTOR: Performance Energy Service, LLC
   REPRESENTATIVE: 
   TELEPHONE: 

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

4. LEASE: 00175
   AREA: GI   LATITUDE: 29.000682
   BLOCK: 43   LONGITUDE: -89.858304

5. PLATFORM: AS-SEP
   RIG NAME:

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

7. TYPE:
   [ ] HISTORIC INJURY
   [X] REQUIRED EVACUATION
       LTA (1-3 days) 1
       LTA (>3 days) 1
       RW/JT (1-3 days)
       RW/JT (>3 days)
   [ ] OTHER INJURY
   [ ] FATALITY
   [ ] POLLUTION
   [ ] FIRE
   [X] EXPLOSION

   LWC [ ] HISTORIC BLOWOUT
       UNDERGROUND
       SURFACE
       DEVERTER
       SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES
   [ ] COLLISION
       HISTORIC
       >$25K
       <=$25K

8. CAUSE:
   [X] EQUIPMENT FAILURE
   [X] HUMAN ERROR
   [ ] EXTERNAL DAMAGE
   [ ] SLIP/TRIP/FALL
   [ ] WEATHER RELATED
   [ ] LEAK
   [ ] UPSET H2O TREATING
   [ ] OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID
   [X] OTHER

9. WATER DEPTH: 110 FT.

10. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 17 MI.

11. WIND DIRECTION: W
    SPEED: 0 M.P.H.

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

13. SEA STATE: FT.
17. INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

On 8 July 2012, at approximately 10:30 hours, during construction operations, a third-party contractor, employed by Performance Energy Service (PES) was injured when he was struck by a plumbers plug. At the time of the incident, two PES contractors were in the process of removing the plumbers plug from a 20" process line. Contractor #1 began the pressure bleed-off process from the plug when thermal pressure caused the plug to eject and project approximately 9 feet, hitting the platform's support beam and striking contractor #2 in the right leg. The PES contractor failed to communicate with the GOM Shelf consultant prior to removing the plumbers plug. The contractor did not have a proper Job Safety Analysis (JSA) for this specific job scope that identified the potential threat of thermal pressure build-up, projectile hazards, body placement and safety warnings when working with plugs. The Injured Person (IP) was evacuated for medical evaluation and was diagnosed with a fractured tibia.

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

A. Failure to check for thermal pressure. The build-up of thermal pressure in the 20" line caused the plumbers plug to eject.

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

A. Improper JSA for the job scope that failed to identify potential hazards.
B. Failure to communicate with the GOM Shelf Consultant who could have overseen safety.
C. Failure to read the warning labels for plug as the JSA should have directed.
D. Personnel standing in a hazardous area that the JSA should have precluded.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Plug Information:
A. The plug traveled 9' from the end of the flange opening to the support beam.
B. The plug is 2' 11" in length, 12" diameter deflated, 24" inflated.
C. The airline and support line to inflate and deflate the plug is 20' in length.
D. The plug was completely inserted into the 20" diameter pipe.
E. The 20" pipe had an open thread-o-let 9"-10" from flange opening.
F. Plumbers plugs were ordered for this shut-in by another contractor (DII).
21. PROPERTY DAMAGED: None
   NATURE OF DAMAGE: None

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): N/A

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:
   The BSEE New Orleans District makes no recommendations to the Agency.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:
   G-110 - Operation of removing plumbers plug was not conducted in a safe and workmanlike manner causing injury to personnel.

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:
   24-JUL-2012

26. ONSITE TEAM MEMBERS:
   Kimberly Criddle / Otho Barnes / Darryl Williams /

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PANEL FORMED: NO

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:
   David J. Trocquet

APPROVED DATE: 15-AUG-2012
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