



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region**

Notice No. 124

March 27, 1984

Pedestal Crane Boom Wire Rope Failure

The following Safety Alert, dated January 6, 1984, received from Department of Energy, Petroleum Engineering Division, Thames House South, Millbank London, describes an undesirable situation which also could be applicable to Gulf of Mexico OCS operations:

"A recent failure occurred on a boom wire rope after only ten months service.

It had apparently been properly lubricated.

"Subsequent detailed examination of the failed rope discovered no metallurgical defect and correct construction from satisfactory material in the correct condition. However, there was evidence of some damage of a sharp cutting nature which could be seen on individual strands. Because of the hardness of the material it was considered that there were relatively few agents on the installation which could have caused this type of damage. However, it was noted that grit blasting had taken place on the installation over a period of about three months prior to this incident. It would therefore, appear that some of the abrasive grit may have contaminated the wire rope lubricant leading, in turn, to premature failure.

"The above should be borne in mind during grit blasting operations and during crane inspections. Particular attention should be given to wire ropes exhibiting any broken individual strands. Obviously effective segregation of lifting gear and grit blasting operations is important."

[signed] D.W. Solanas

Regional Supervisor

Rules and Production