



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

Notice No. 034

January 14, 1976

OCS Operations Safety Alert

Fire -- Leaking Glass Sight Gage

A fire recently occurred on an offshore production platform as a result of leakage from the rubber packing gasket on a glass sight gage.

The sight glass was installed on a glycol reboiler which is heated to 370 F utilizing exhaust gases from a compressor. The rubber gasket was deteriorated by the heat allowing leakage of the glycol and residual hydrocarbons which ignited.

The fire was quickly extinguished with no injuries to personnel and only minor damage to the platform.

To prevent a recurrence of this accident the operator is replacing this sight glass with a flat glass reflective type which can withstand the elevated temperature.

[signed] D.W.Solanas

Oil and Gas Supervisor

Field Operations

Gulf of Mexico Area