



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

Notice No. 048

July 9, 1976

OCS Operations Safety Alert

Flash Fire -- Men Burned

A fire recently occurred on an offshore production platform while starting a compressor engine equipped with a gas-powered engine starter.

Two men were starting the compressor engine when an accumulation of gas in the area was apparently ignited by a spark from a damaged starter-flywheel gear drive. This accumulation of gas evidently resulted from several loose connections in the engine starter gas supply and exhaust lines. The fire was extinguished immediately. One man received first and second degree burns about the face.

To prevent a recurrence of this accident the operator has taken the following action:

1. The damaged flywheel ring gear was replaced.
2. All connections in the starter supply line were checked and tightened.
3. The starter exhaust line was modified to extend above the compressor building.

[signed] D.J. Bourgeois

for D.W. Solanas

Oil and Gas Supervisor

Field Operations

Gulf of Mexico Area