

REVIEW OF OCS BLOWOUTS



**Minerals Management Service
Engineering & Operations
Division
Operations Analysis Branch**

28 June 2001

Blowouts - Loss of Well Control

- **Diverter**
- **Uncontrolled Flow**

Reporting Requirements

Current 30 CFR 250.191

Must Notify District Supervisor of:

- **All serious accidents**
- **any death**
- **any serious injury**
- **all fires**
- **All explosions**
- **all blowouts**
- **all spills**

Proposed Revision of Reporting Requirements

**To be published in Federal Register
as a proposed rule by Fall 2001**

- Will include time limits depending on severity**
- Will include web based reporting**
- coordination with US Coast Guard**

OCS Events by Category: 1995-2001 YTD

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 YTD
Loss of Well Control (Total) *	1	4	5	7	5	9	5
Uncontrolled flows	1	4	2	5	3	9	4
Diverter events	0	0	3	2	2	0	1
Collisions	6	5	10	5	10	8	10
Explosions	0	8	10	4	7	1	4
Fires (Total) * *	42	86	125	90	75	102	31
Catastrophic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Major	0	3	2	2	4	1	2
Minor	3	11	11	7	4	5	1
Incidental	39	72	111	81	67	95	28
Unknown	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Injuries	31	62	83	66	47	63	35
Fatalities	8	10	11	14	5	5	3

YTD = Year to date.

* Loss of well control means either of the following:

(1) Uncontrolled flow of formation or other well fluids. Flow may be between two or more exposed formations or it may be at or above the mudline. Includes uncontrolled flow resulting from failures of either surface or subsurface equipment or procedures.

(2) Flow of formation or other well fluids through a diverter.

* * Fires are classified on the basis of the dollar amount of property damage according to the following criteria:

Catastrophic = destruction of a facility worth greater than \$10 million;

Major = property damage greater than \$1million;

Minor = property damage greater than \$25,000 but less than or equal \$1 million;

Incidental = property damage equal to or less than \$25,000;

Unknown = not enough information to classify.

SOURCE: TIMS database as of June 18, 2001

Losses of Well Control

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Gulf of Mexico Region	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	0	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>
Pacific Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	<u>1</u>	0	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	3	3	0	1	4	5	7	5	9	4

- **Since 1956 - Approximately 220 blowouts in the Gulf of Mexico**
- **Last blowout with loss of life - November 10, 1986 - West Cameron 71 -- 2 Fatalities**

Blowouts by Operation

1967 - 2001 (thru 6/22/01)

Gulf of Mexico

Drlg	Comp	Prod	W/O	P&A	Coll	Hurr	UnK
130	14	12	33	3	5*	2	1

* 4 - production

1 - drilling

Coll - collision

Hurr - hurricane

Blowouts by Cause (Unofficial)

1995-2001 (through 6/22/01)

Gulf of Mexico

Cementing - 10

Underbalance - 6

Equipment Failure - 5

Lost Circulation - 4

Human Error - 3

Unknown - 3

Swabbing - 2

Riser Disconnect - 1

Blowouts Reported to MMS

1993-2001 (thru 6-22-01)

- **39 blowouts**
- **26 drilling related**
- **4 completion operations**
- **over half the drilling blowouts involved development drilling**
- **11 of the drilling blowouts involve shallow gas**
- **4 workover operations**
- **3 production operations**
- **2 P & A**
- **Most blowouts were of short duration, 20 lasted less than 24 hours**
- **2 blowouts involved minor injuries**