ALERT 01-36

SURFACE DETONATION OF PERFORATING GUN

WHAT HAPPENED:

While a crew was attempting to disarm a 2’ X 3 3/8” select fire perforating gun, the gun detonated on the surface. Three non-life threatening injuries resulted.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The operator was attempting to disarm the gun by removing the G-51 detonator through the small arming port of a ported sub. Detonation occurred as the operator attempted to “fish” the detonator out of the port with a pocketknife.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- Instructed personnel to do the following:
  - Use caution when handling detonators.
  - Review procedures for safe handling of detonators.
  - When feasible and where allowed by applicable regulations, arm perforating guns prior to transport using detonation interruption devices to avoid having to insert or remove the detonators through a small port at well site.