

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT
 GULF OF MEXICO REGION

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

For Public Release

1. OCCURRED

DATE: **21-SEP-2023** TIME: **0100** HOURS

2. OPERATOR: **Apache Corporation**

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

CONTRACTOR: **Helix**

REPRESENTATIVE:

TELEPHONE:

- STRUCTURAL DAMAGE
- CRANE
- OTHER LIFTING
- DAMAGED/DISABLED SAFETY SYS.
- INCIDENT >\$25K
- H2S/15MIN./20PPM
- REQUIRED MUSTER
- SHUTDOWN FROM GAS RELEASE
- OTHER

3. OPERATOR/CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE/SUPERVISOR ON SITE AT TIME OF INCIDENT:

4. LEASE:

AREA: **EI** LATITUDE:
 BLOCK: **158** LONGITUDE:

5. PLATFORM: **JB**

RIG NAME:

6. ACTIVITY: EXPLORATION(POE)
 DEVELOPMENT/PRODUCTION (DOCD/POD)

7. TYPE:

INJURIES:

HISTORIC INJURY

	OPERATOR	CONTRACTOR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REQUIRED EVACUATION	0	1
<input type="checkbox"/> LTA (1-3 days)		
<input type="checkbox"/> LTA (>3 days)		
<input type="checkbox"/> RW/JT (1-3 days)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RW/JT (>3 days)	0	1
<input type="checkbox"/> FATALITY		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Injury		

- POLLUTION
- FIRE
- EXPLOSION

- LWC HISTORIC BLOWOUT
 UNDERGROUND
 SURFACE
 DEVERTER
 SURFACE EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR PROCEDURES

COLLISION HISTORIC >\$25K <=\$25K

8. OPERATION:

- PRODUCTION
- DRILLING
- WORKOVER
- COMPLETION
- HELICOPTER
- MOTOR VESSEL
- PIPELINE SEGMENT NO.
- DECOMMISSIONING
- PA PIPELINE SITE CLEARANCE
- TA PLATFORM
- OTHER

9. CAUSE:

- EQUIPMENT FAILURE
- HUMAN ERROR
- EXTERNAL DAMAGE
- SLIP/TRIP/FALL
- WEATHER RELATED
- LEAK
- UPSET H2O TREATING
- OVERBOARD DRILLING FLUID
- OTHER _____

10. WATER DEPTH: **80** FT.

11. DISTANCE FROM SHORE: **40** MI.

12. WIND DIRECTION: **W**
 SPEED: **14** M.P.H.

13. CURRENT DIRECTION:
 SPEED: M.P.H.

14. SEA STATE: **3** FT.

15. PICTURES TAKEN:

16. STATEMENT TAKEN:

Incident Summary:

On 21 September 2023, at approximately 0130 hours, a leg injury resulting in days away from work occurred during well abandonment operations for the operator Apache Corporation (Apache) at Eugene Island (EI) Block 158JB (OCS G01220).

Sequence of Events:

On 20 September 2023, the Lift Boat Man-O-War owned by All Coast LLC and contracted by Apache was conducting permanent well abandonment operations on EI Block 158JB platform. The Well #13 production tree (wellhead) was removed from the platform using the lift boat crane and laid down on its side on the deck of the Lift Boat Man-O-War during the day shift. The wellhead weighed approximately 8000 pounds, measured 12-foot long by 2-foot in diameter and had casing valves and nipples protruding from the sides. Before the rigging was removed from the wellhead, personnel tried to move it by hand to confirm stability. Since personnel did not observe movement, the rigging was removed, and the wellhead was left unsecured on the deck.

At approximately 0130 hours on 21 September 2023, the night shift Supervisor, Injured Party (IP), sat on the wellhead while the cutting crew was setting up tools and equipment for function testing in the area. When the IP stood up, the wellhead rolled onto his leg and pinned him down. At the time of the incident, the winds were from the West at 10 to 12 knots and seas were 3 to 4 feet. In response to the incident, a sling was attached to a casing valve on the wellhead, and the lift boat crane was used to roll the wellhead off the IP's leg. The IP was moved onto a stokes litter and removed from the immediate area into the galley inside the living quarters. The IP had a compound fracture with exposed bone on the foreword part of the lower left shin.

A medevac helicopter request was initiated, and his boot and sock were cut off so gauze and a leg brace could be applied. A nearby platform with a medic was contacted by telephone, and the medic gave instructions on how to treat the leg injury. The wellhead was temporarily moved to make room on the deck to hoist the IP to the medevac helicopter. When the helicopter arrived on scene, it was determined that it was unsafe to lift the IP from the lift boat. Therefore, the IP was strapped to the stokes litter and lifted to the platform's helideck using the lift boat's crane. The IP was hoisted into the medevac helicopter at approximately 0530 hours and evacuated to a hospital onshore.

BSEE Investigation:

On 21 September 2023, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Lafayette District conducted an onsite incident follow-up investigation at EI 158JB. BSEE met with Apache and Alliance representatives and conducted interviews with relevant personnel involved in the incident. BSEE conducted photographic documentation and gathered incident-related documents including Job Safety Analysis (JSA), Hot Work Permit, Daily Safe Operation Plan, Apache photographic documentation, and witness statements. The Apache Incident Investigation Report was also obtained.

The BSEE Incident Investigation Team concluded the wellhead was set on the deck in an unstable position that allowed the wellhead to roll over the IP's left leg. Efforts to check stability of an 8000-pound object by hand is not sufficient. Over time, and as indicated in a witness statement, it is possible that movements of the lift boat due to weather conditions and crane activity could have caused the wellhead to shift between the time it was laid on its side and the time it rolled on the IP's leg. Apache's Corrective Action was to keep a scrap basket onboard to put the wellhead in to prevent reoccurrence.

18. LIST THE PROBABLE CAUSE(S) OF ACCIDENT:

Human Performance Error - Improper body placement: The IP sat on an unsecured wellhead that rolled onto his left leg causing the injury.

Equipment Failure - Improper storage of equipment: The wellhead was laid on the deck in an unstable and unsecured position.

Supervision - Not providing adequate tools for equipment for tasks: There were no available scrap baskets on location to contain and/or secure the load once on the lift boat's deck.

19. LIST THE CONTRIBUTING CAUSE(S) OF ACCIDENT:

Management System - Inadequate hazard analysis/ written job procedures: Personnel failed to identify job steps, identify hazards, and mitigate hazards on a JSA for the wellhead removal.

Work Environment - Other weather influences: - Over time, it is possible that movements of the lift boat due to weather conditions and crane activity could have caused the wellhead to shift between the time it was laid on its side and the time it rolled on the IP's leg.

20. LIST THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

21. PROPERTY DAMAGED:

NATURE OF DAMAGE:

No property was damaged during this incident.

Not applicable

ESTIMATED AMOUNT (TOTAL): \$

22. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT RECURRANCE NARRATIVE:

The BSEE Lafayette District makes no recommendations to the Office of Incident Investigations regarding this incident.

23. POSSIBLE OCS VIOLATIONS RELATED TO ACCIDENT: YES

24. SPECIFY VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONTRIBUTING. NARRATIVE:

A G-110 Incident of Non-Compliance was issued on 11 October 2023, to document that Apache Corporation (Apache) failed to comply with the regulatory requirement to operate in a safe and workmanlike manner. On 20 September 2023, an individual was injured while Apache was conducting plug and abandonment operations from the Lift Boat Man-O-War located at Eugene Island Block 158 JB. The wellhead for Well #13 was removed from the platform and set in the work area on the deck of the Lift Boat Man-O-War. The Injured Party sat on the

wellhead and as he stood up, the wellhead rolled on his leg and pinned him down, causing a serious leg injury. The leg injury was due to an unstable wellhead that the operator failed to secure and anchor in a manner to prevent it from rolling. The injured party was evacuated from the facility by a medevac helicopter for medical treatment. Apache shall submit a letter of explanation to the BSEE Lafayette District Well Operations Supervisor concerning the above incident, along with plans to eliminate all future incidents of this nature.

For Public Release

25. DATE OF ONSITE INVESTIGATION:

21-SEP-2023

28. ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION:

29. ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION PANEL FORMED:

26. Investigation Team Members/Panel Members:

**Troy Naquin (Report Author) / Roy Kuhn
(Onsite) / Ernest Carmouche (Onsite) /
Nicolas Poret (Onsite/Report Author) /**

NO

OCS REPORT:

27. OPERATOR REPORT ON FILE:

30. DISTRICT SUPERVISOR:

Mark Malbrue

APPROVED

DATE:

13-NOV-2023