

5 Introduction

5.1 Abstract

This manual is applicable for the BP Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Business Unit (GoM DWP BU). It is a guide to ensure that an organized Source Control response to a well control event is brought swiftly and efficiently into action.

This manual provides a working methodology to safely and effectively manage an initial response to a well control incident. This would normally cover the first 48 hours until dedicated control and recovery teams are formed and well control specialists are on location. The plan goal is to provide guidance to:

- Safeguard human life - When primary well control is lost, it is essential to control site safety, safety of third parties and the safety of those directly involved with the well control operations. This is ensured by efficiently and effectively conducted control efforts.
- Minimize primary well control escalation to ensure minimum damage to the well, rig, surface facilities and location. Establish levels and definitions of Well Control Incidents to avoid arbitrary decisions of when to get the Incident Management System activated.
- Create a safe environment for the public.
- Minimize environmental impact.

5.2 Specific Objectives

Within the GoM DWP BU, the Corporate "facilities" on the deepwater environment, on certain deepwater projects, drilling operations are conducted with a Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU). Since the MODU is indeed a vessel and not owned by BP, the MODU Rig Manager/OIM will in fact assume the initial role of On Scene Commander instead of a BP employee (WEL or BP OIM) as would be the more common case.

This subordination of the onsite BP representative to the MODU Rig Manager/OIM achieves BP's primary objectives stated above, but also clarifies the responsibilities in this situation, but to the MODU Rig Manager/OIM. The MODU Rig Manager/OIM must specify a division of responsibilities and support within the MODU Contractor/BP drilling team.

Within this document the term OIM (Offshore Installation Manager) which generally implies a BP employee, may indeed be the Rig Manager/OIM (As Applicable to the Situation). Once again, the Site Specific Well Control Contingency Plan must specify a division of responsibilities and support within the MODU Contractor/BP drilling team.

5.3 Document Objectives

The objective of this Guide is to provide clear concise instructions to key personnel in the event of a well control incident that are compatible with BP's tiered emergency response system. This will include the call out procedures and Incident Management Team (IMT) formation for a well control emergency.

- Provide guidelines for BP and contractor staff in response to an emergency well control event.

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- Inform BP management, other departments and staff of their responsibilities and set out the procedures they should follow in a well control related emergency event.
- Define the type of support that may be required from the various departments and sections within BP and the support that may be required from contracted vendors.

It is not envisaged that the Well Site Leader (WEL) or the Installation/Site/Rig OIM (As Applicable) becomes an expert in response for loss of well control; however personnel onsite must have response guidance in the event of a well control incident. It is also realized that every well control event is unique and response and mitigation actions must be tailored to suit.

This document is intended to be a quick-response users guide with a minimum of pages and therefore contains minimum background and supporting information. This document provides guidance for initial team response and considerations for "Personnel with Response Duties" both on and off scene. They are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive. Not all actions will be applicable in all cases. Others may be required. Provided the WEL/OIM (As Applicable) makes the correct initial contact and gives the necessary basic emergency details, the BP response should follow on automatically and the Guide will have served its primary purpose. For obvious reasons, Key Response Documents will exist as part of the overall well control response and include details on managing, designing and executing a well control project intervention as well as engineering studies evaluating loss of well control.

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These documents are meant to facilitate the OIM/WEL Team on the planning process (see 5-1 below).

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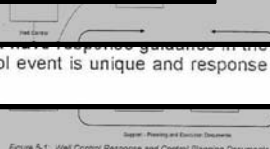


Figure 5-1: Well Control Response and Control Planning Documents

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