



## **Rough waters causing problems to burn off oil in Gulf of Mexico**



by Mike Whitlow

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**(WHAS11)-In the Gulf of Mexico Saturday night some rough weather prevented the coast guard from burning off more oil from that ruptured undersea oil well.**

**Great hope had been placed on a "containment dome" that was suppose to cap the well and stop the massive leak.**

**But now it appears that hasn't worked.**

**"What happened is we were placing the dome over the leak source a large volume of hydrates formed inside the top of the domen requiring us to move the dome to the side of the leak point," says Doug Suttles/BP**

**Authorities now say the deadly blowout was triggered by a bubble of methane gas that escaped from the well and shot up the drill column, bursting through several seals and**

barriers before exploding. The workers onboard the rig say a device called a "blowout prevent" failed to set off an alarm and cut off a potentially dangerous methane bubble as it expanded and rushed to the surface.

"They always tell us that we have safety devices and warnings and they got ways of shuttin' it in, and don't seem like they had nuttin'," says Micah Sandell.

Meanwhile nearly a mile below the surface a 100-ton containment vessel was eased over the larger of two leaks. Underwater robots cleared the sea floor of debris. And while some robots illuminated the sea bed, others nudged the massive containment system over the leak. The technique had never been tried before.

3-million gallons of oil has already escaped from the ruptured well. The Coast guard and Minerals Management Service say they are investigating the causes of the explosion and will hold two days of public hearings in Kenner, Louisiana, beginning Tuesday.

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