

- On Friday night, I returned from four days in Houston, where my team of scientists and I have been monitoring the progress of the "top kill" effort and helping to design the strategies for moving forward.
- We have been getting the data at the same time as BP engineers, and conducting our own independent analysis of the data so that we can verify the conclusions that BP is making at every step.
- More than 150 personnel from our national laboratories have been contributing to this effort. For example, we have helped with high quality 2D radiography that the industry experts have said breaks all records for deep water radiography. That imaging is crucial in helping understand what is happening inside the BOP and informing the approach moving forward.
- This is an incredibly complicated technical and engineering challenge -- we are attempting something that has never been done before at this depth.
- Top Kill Statistics if needed:
 - 3 separate attempts over 3 days.
 - Pumped total 30,000 barrels of heavy mud at rates up to 80 bpm, 1,1000 psi surface pressure, 6,000 psi wellhead.
 - Fired 16 different bridging material shots (varying sized balls, cubes and misc objects).
- - 29 vessels in the area, including 10 ROVs.
- • Top Kill #1 May 26th - Pumped 13,100 bbls, 16.4 ppg, 53 bpm
- • Top Kill #2 May 27th - Pumped 6,800 bbls, 16.4 ppg, 25 bpm with 15 shots of bridging materials
- • Top Kill #3 May 28th - Pumped 9,800 bbls, 16.4 ppg, >70 bpm, with 2 shots of bridging materials
- These efforts did not kill the well.
- It appears that we are not able to force mud into all of the flow path areas that are allowing oil and gas to come up. There is also a chance that the rupture disks between the casings were damaged in the initial explosion. If we continue trying to force mud down, we risk damaging them further.
- So it is time to move on to the next option, which is to put a cap on top of the BOP to contain the spill and pump it to the surface.