

What We Know

- Before, during or after the cement job, an undetected influx of hydrocarbons entered the wellbore;
- The 9 7/8" casing was tested; the 9 7/8" casing hanger packoff was set and tested; and the entire system was tested;
- After 16.5 hours waiting on cement, a test was performed on the wellbore below the Blowout Preventer (BOP);
- During this test, 1,400 psi was observed on the drill pipe while 0 psi was observed on the kill and the choke lines;
- Following the test, hydrocarbons were unknowingly circulated to surface while displacing the riser with seawater;
- As hydrocarbons rose to the surface, they expanded, further reducing the hydrostatic pressure. The well flowed and witness account suggest that the Annular Preventer in the BOP and the Diverter were activated;
- An explosion occurred, followed by a power failure;
- Witness accounts suggest that the Emergency Disconnect System was activated;
- The rig was evacuated;
- The BOP system failed to work as intended. Flow was not contained and the Lower Marine Riser Package did not disconnect;
- Modifications have been discovered in the BOP system;
- Leaks have been discovered in the BOP hydraulics system;
- BP launched an investigation which is ongoing.

Investigation Themes

- Cementing – design and execution;
- Casing – design and installation;
- Casing Hanger – design and installation
- BOP – configuration, maintenance and operation;
- Well Control Practices.