

From: Mathews, Jason
To: Labiche, Lance
Sent: 4/22/2010 5:52:24 AM
Subject: FW: Oil being released - NOAA ResponseLink Hotline Report just posted

Looks like the event is here - at least they have response vessels there to contain the spill

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From: Anderson, Cheryl
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2010 6:50 AM
To: Mayes, Melinda; Hauser, William; LaBelle, Robert
Cc: Nelson, Paul; Mathews, Jason; Moore, David M.; Johnson, Walter
Subject: RE: Oil being released - NOAA ResponseLink Hotline Report just posted

FROM NOAA ResponseLink – INTERNAL USE ONLY

This is last evening's evening report from Charlie Henry of NOAA HAZMAT

"There is a wild well release. The volume or rate of the release is unknown, but thought to be significant. The USCG has requested a best guess estimate from the RP (and I would not be surprised if that value is in the 10-20K bbl/day range, the SSC's best guess estimated based only on past experiences)"

DEEPWATER HORIZON Incident, Gulf of Mexico

Subject Evening Report, 21 April 2010 2000 hrs
From charlie.henry@noaa.gov
Date Apr-21-2010 08:01 PM
Category Situation Reports
ID Incident #8220, Entry #526047
Entry is PRIVATE.

The Deepwater Horizon is on fire and continues to burn, and the vessel (a very large semisubmersible) is reported listing roughly 15 degrees and is severely damaged to the point that the stability of the vessel had been questioned. Firefighting efforts have been scaled back because of a fear that the water applied is actual contributing to the list. The vessel remains on-location only because the riser that connects to the seafloor wellhead is acting as a mooring. The regional NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator has deployed on-scene to the USCG Command Post at Marine Safety Unit Morgan City. The RP's Command Post has been established at the Crisis Management Center at BP's Houston Office. The Regional Assistant Scientific Support Coordinator will deploy on-scene to that location in the morning. Of the 126 crew reported aboard the Deepwater Horizon, 115 have been accounted for (11 crew members remain missing). USCG SAR



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DEP467-000049

TREX 008882.0001

operations are continuing, and all hope that they will be found (our thoughts and prayers go out to the families). The effort to save lives is the primary response priority.

There is a wild well release. The volume or rate of the release is unknown, but thought to be significant. The USCG has requested a best guess estimate from the RP (and I would not be surprised if that value is in the 10-20K bbl/day range, the SSC's best guess estimated based only on past experiences). This was a new well that was undergoing a temporary plug and abandonment for future production. Most of the oil is burning at the platform generating 300 to 400 foot flames, intense heat, and black smoke. There was oil pollution reported in the water, and the extent of the slick was largely undelineated. Some reports suggested a slick 2 miles in length (better overflight reporting has been identified as a priority for tomorrow's environmental operations). NOAA has updated the trajectory analysis. Should there be a significant release of oil on water, the trajectory suggests that the Northern GOM coast would be at risk, but it would take more than three days for oil to threaten the shorelines and the weather forecast and oceanographic currents could change. The amount of diesel on the vessel was updated to only 700,000 gallons earlier in the day, and what fraction of this that may have burned is also unknown. The RP has a wide range of on-water pollution response vessel in route or already on-scene including MSRC Response Vessels and CGA HOSS Barge skimming system. Dispersant assets have also been restaged.

The RP is working to attempt a shut in of the well at the seafloor using a ROV to activate the Blowout Prevention System. Two attempts earlier in the even have failed. It is believed that crew members had activated this system before evacuation, but there was no affect either. A third attempt is planned for later in the night. Controlling the source of the release is the most important operation outside of the SAR effort. Should the semisubmersible sink or detach from the riser, it is likely that the fire mitigation would be lost. A major oil spill would be the expected result. Failure to shut in the well using the control system at the seafloor would potentially create a continued release of crude oil until a relief well could be drill (a time period characterized as several weeks). There is a strengthening of winds and sea state predicted by Friday evening. Such weather would put even greater stress of both the vessel and the riser. This third attempt to shut in the well tonight is critical with respect to preventing a major oil spill event.

NOAA has preidentified additional response personnel to support the USCG. If the well is not secured tonight, it is likely that NOAA's on-scene presence will ramp up to be in a better response posture should (or more likely when) the semisubmersible disconnects from the riser or seafloor connection resulting in a, most likely, major oil pollution release. It has been a long day. The situation status will be updated after the morning brief.

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TREX 008882.0002

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<http://www.mms.gov/incidents/spills1996-2008.htm>
<http://www.mms.gov/incidents/spills1964-1995.htm>

From: Anderson, Cheryl
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 8:25 PM
To: Mayes, Melinda; Hauser, William; LaBelle, Robert
Cc: Nelson, Paul; Mathews, Jason
Subject: Oil being released - NOAA ResponseLink Hotline Report just posted

Although Bud has the info (and a little more) posted

I would say this is for internal use only

It was on the NOAA Hazmat ResponseLink

<< File: Deepwater_Horizon_Report__2.pdf >>

It does say crude oil is being released

".....Fire boat response crews continue to battle the blazing remnants of the rig.

The blowout preventer on the sea bed did not activate and crude oil and natural gas are blowing out of the well and burning.

The rig is listing and there is growing concern over the stability of the vessel and how long it may remain afloat.

Weather conditions are expected to deteriorate late in the week, adding concern.

A remote operated vehicle (ROV) is currently inspecting the blowout preventer to determine

whether it can be manually activated. Other options to control the source of the fire/spill will be

more time-consuming.

The amount of oil spilled is still unknown but the fire appears to be burning off a significant

fraction of the oil. If the rig were to sink or become decoupled from the riser, the fire may be

extinguished and result in a larger spill. NOAA is working with the USCG and BP to develop

contingency plans if the fire is extinguished before the source can be controlled."

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From: Anderson, Cheryl
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 8:10 PM
To: Mayes, Melinda
Cc: Nelson, Paul; Mathews, Jason
Subject: Bud's BOE news that I haven't heard anywhere else and new pictures from NOAA ResponseLink

This is what I just found on Bud's BOE

<http://budsoffshoreenergy.wordpress.com/>

Upstream report on today's press conference.

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Observations:

1. The listing DP rig is apparently being held on location solely by the marine riser.
2. It sounds like they were cementing (or had cemented) production casing at the time of the incident, and that the surface plug had not yet been set prior to temporarily abandoning the well. Flow could be inside the casing or in the annulus.
3. Apparently most of the oil is being released at the top of the riser (estimated rate of 300 bbl/hr) and being ignited. If the riser fails, oil will be released at the seafloor and the spill response will be much more challenging.
4. They will attempt to actuate the BOPE with an ROV. This implies that they either were unable to actuate BOPE prior to evacuating or that the actuation was unsuccessful (e.g. shear ram was unable to cut pipe in well bore).

These pictures are fresh off the NOAA ResponseLink
They were 2 or 3 MB each but I chopped them way down
Interesting in that you can see the rig fairly well in two of them
I suggest they be cautioned to be for internal use only

<< File: NOAARL1.jpg >> << File: NOAARL3.jpg >> << File: NOAARL2.jpg >>

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