



STATE SUPERVISION OF MINES

Inspectorate of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation

Safety Bulletin

Nr. 03/10/a Incident with perforating guns (update)

November 8, 2010

Incident with perforating guns

On Wednesday 20 October a serious incident occurred onboard a drilling jack-up rig drilling in the Dutch sector in the North Sea.

Although the incident, is still under investigation we like to stress for all jobs utilizing the ball drop type firing head that before pulling out the hole the firing of the guns must be confirmed.

1. Regardless of any indications of firing head actuation and guns firing, ensure that there is communication between the Coil Tubing pressure and the annulus pressure before starting out of the well and while pulling out of the well.
2. After firing the guns and prior to start pulling out of the well, establish that there is communication between the tubing and annulus. This can be done by pumping on the tubing or bleeding pressure off the annulus and monitoring the two pressures.
3. While pulling out of the well monitor the tubing pressure and annulus pressure to ensure that there is no differential pressure being created between the tubing and annulus.
4. If a differential pressure is observed while pulling out of the well, stop pulling out and explain all relevant people what is occurring. The recommended action will be to run the guns back down to perforating depth and repeat the gun firing process by pressuring up on the coil.

What happened.

During reperforating operations a 10m 6spf 2 inch perforating gun was retrieved to surface on coiled tubing after positive firing indications were noted at firing depth. The gun was pulled into the 10k production riser between the production tree on the production platform and the coiled tubing BOP on the rig floor.

After the swab valve of the production tree was closed, the pressure in the riser was bled down to zero through the well test set-up. The coiled tubing operator saw that the pressure in the coiled tubing was not decreasing simultaneously with the riser pressure which it should have. The coiled tubing operator immediately notified the driller, indicating there was something not right and that the gun could still be "hot".



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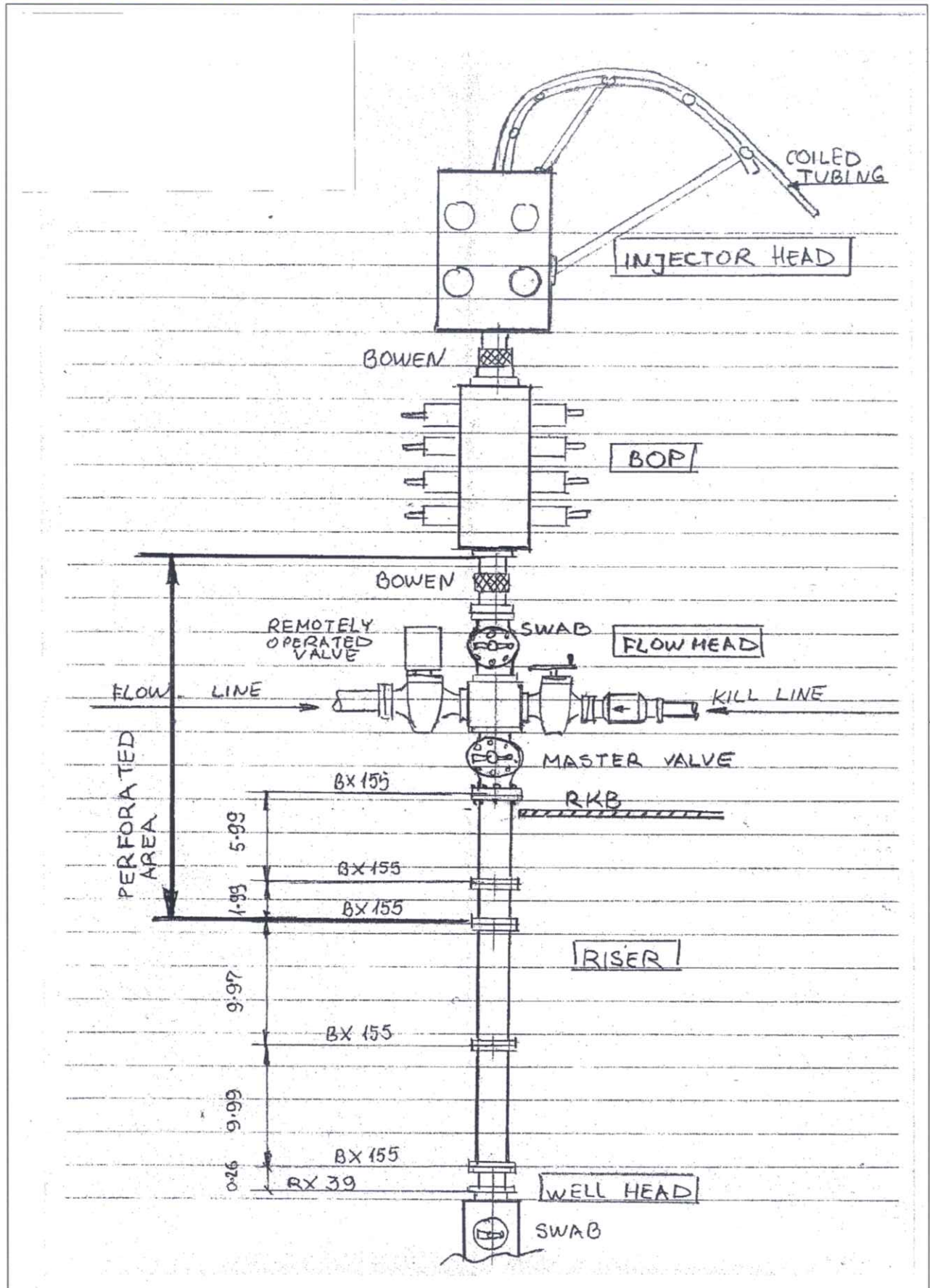
The driller left the rig floor and took a safe position. He then informed all relevant personal by VHF radio to keep away from the rig floor. Meanwhile town was informed and was requested for more information before proceeding with any other operation.

Approximately 20 minutes later, a loud explosion was heard, followed by a loud hiss of escaping nitrogen. From a safe distance, numerous small holes could be seen from the top part of the production riser, from below the coiled tubing BOP on the rig floor till about 10 meters downwards on the rig's cellar deck. At that moment it became clear the gun fired in the riser.

Thanks to the safety precautions and alertly reactions from personal nobody was injured.



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