

Fire fighting



A fire-fighting vessel extinguishing fire on a LPG tanker

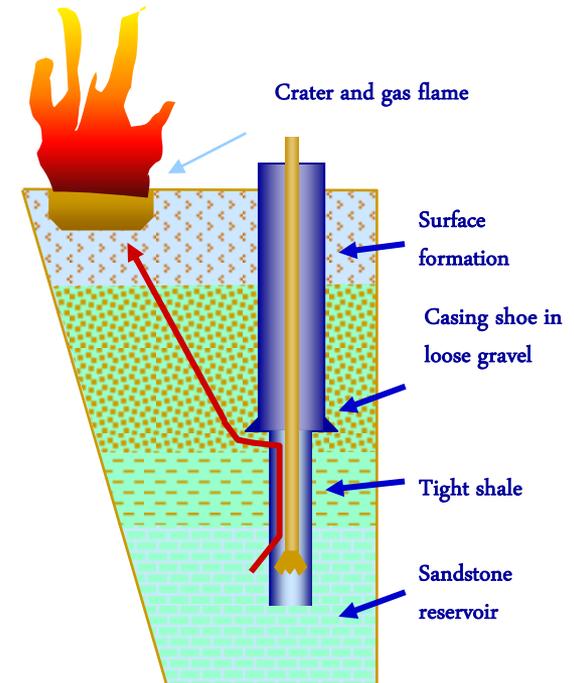
The main advantage of oil and gas, its ability to burn and combust becomes a great problem as soon as it gets out of control.

Unfortunately history is full of great fires and explosions and led to extensive research and developments of fire proof equipment and preventative safety regulations.

Oilfield catastrophes



Austria, Feb. 1989, a pit of 30 x 70m blown out by migrating gas, photo RB



The casing shoe was positioned in loose gravel some 3 m above the cap rock.

While drilling into the gas reservoir gas migrated through the mudcake below the casing shoe into the gravel formation and moved to surface blowing a huge hole some 120 m away from the rig. Self ignition caused an immense explosion and a gas fire of a nozzle of 30 x 70 m to burn for two hours. A strong subsurface explosion caused lots of earth to be fly about and to kill the fire while the rig crew pumped cement into the well to seal off the leak. No one was hurt by the incident.

Piper Alpha



1988 the Piper Alpha disaster the morning after the explosion.



An initial explosion led to an escalating fire that destroyed the platform with the loss of 165 lives. This single accident led to a revolution in offshore safety in the UK and across the world.

Within days of the Piper Alpha accident, every operator in the North Sea had set about reviewing the hazards to their own platforms and the Government had appointed Lord Cullen to conduct a public inquiry leading to the most strict safety regulations.

Today there is basically not one screw on a rig without a recorded safety approval!

Kuwait



Burning wellhead

After the Iraq invasion to Kuwait 1991, hundreds of wellheads were blasted off and the free flowing petroleum was set on fire. Among a global team of experts, Red Adair, the most famous oil field fire fighter killed 117 fires. It took 9 month to finally kill the last burning well.

Exxon Valdez



The Mighty Exxon Valdez Spills

In 1989 the oil tanker, Exxon Valdez, coated the ocean water with tons of sticky oil after crashing. Many of the sea creatures living in the vicinity of the Prince Williams Alaska died.

This was the largest and most harmful oil spill in U.S. history and gave the entire oil industry a long lasting bad image.

Today nothing can be seen of the spill as the very aggressive sea water cleaned every thing away.

Piper Alpha



Piper Alpha on fire 1988, North Sea

Our commitment to serve the oil and gas industry always keeps in mind that a faulty function or wrong application can cause harm to assets and people.



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