

**ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT
PROFORMA**

ALERT NUMBER: 01/2009

ISSUE DATE: 9 March 2009

INCIDENT DETAILS:

Unexplained closure of isolation valves on a hydraulic riser tensioning system resulted in over pressurisation and a release of hydraulic fluid to sea via a burst rupture disc.

INITIAL FINDINGS:

The mechanism by which the valve closed has yet to be established, however due to its inaccessible location inadvertent human closure has been ruled out. Investigations are ongoing to determine possible alternative closure mechanisms including vibration, velocity of fluid flow and turbulence of fluid flow. To prevent a recurrence a physical locking mechanism has been incorporated into the valve. The operator also assessed the potential for similar occurrences in other systems.

The valve in question was the 6" isolation valve on the tensioner cylinder itself and not the Olmsted shut off valve.

Further Information

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

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Offshore Environment and Decommissioning
Atholl House
86-88 Guild Street
ABERDEEN
AB11 6AR

Or:

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