

# SAFETY ALERT



## Blow Out Preventer (BOP) Drops to Seabed

Alert 4-20

### WHAT HAPPENED:

The Subsea Engineer inadvertently activated the Emergency Disconnect Sequence (EDS) while running the Blow Out Preventer (BOP) on marine riser resulting in the BOP separating from the Lower Marine Riser Package (LMRP) and dropping to the seabed.

The Subsea Engineer mistakenly pressed the EDS button, thinking it was the wellhead connector Pilot-Operated Check Valve (POCV) override.

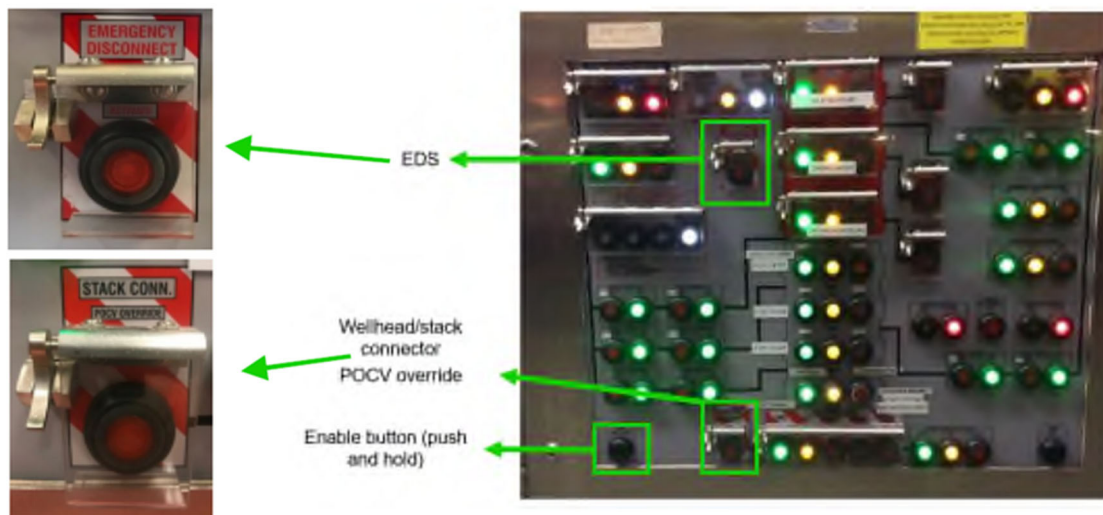


Figure 1 –View of the BOP Control Panel

### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Both the POCV override and EDS buttons have similar-looking labels and safety guards, where only the EDS function should warrant these protections. This arrangement confused the panel operator, contributing to the mistake.
- Company standard of having second checker to operate the BOP control panel for all non-emergencies, was not complied with.

### LESSONS LEARNED:

- A review of all BOP control panels should be undertaken to identify error-prone configurations in the human-machine interface, specifically focusing on EDS and Shear Ram operations.
- An effort to revalidate provisions for employment of a “two-competent-persons” procedure should be asserted for exercising BOP control panels during non-emergency operation. Such procedure should include distinct verbalization of step-by-step commands by “competent person one” and corresponding verbal acknowledgement of intended function by “competent person two.” Actuation of commands should proceed only after “competent person two” provides the necessary confirmation.
- Periodic audit of these procedures should be exercised by way of log checks, verification of competent persons’ knowledge, skills, and abilities related to this procedure; and other appropriate/identified measures as may be necessary for procedure validation.

---

***A Safety Alert can consist of any type of health, safety & environment (HSE) notification or Near Miss/Near Hit alert. Proactive Alerts on jobs well done are also encouraged.***