



CASE HISTORY

Drilling and Completions

Storm Plug

BRIDGE PLUG APPLICATION

A Temporary Bridge Plug was Required for Large Diameter, Non-API Casing Due to Storm

Location: Gulf of Mexico



CHALLENGE: An exploration well in 8,000 ft of water in the Gulf of Mexico with 24 in. casing set was temporarily plugged to allow disconnecting of the riser from the BOP stack while a hurricane raged through the Gulf.

SOLUTION: A 14 ½ in. OD inflatable bridge plug (IBP) was run and set 1,400 ft below the BOP/wellhead. BOP were closed, 22 in. riser disconnected, and picked up 400 ft to allow the ship to move freely during the storm. After storm passed, the riser was re-connected, BOP tested and the IBP retrieved to allow continuation of the drilling operations.

RESULTS AND BENEFIT: Prior methods of using cement plugs had proven ineffective due to low fracture pressure and associated losses when the cement plug is placed. In addition, rig time required to place and drill out cement plugs was greatly reduced by using the IBP.



Inflatable Bridge Plug