DRILLING AT 11,769 FEET, A HIGH PRESSURE GAS ZONE WAS ENCOUNTERED. BOP AND HYDRIL WERE CLOSED AND KICK WAS BEING CIRCULATED OUT WHEN THE AUTOMATIC CHOKE FAILED FOR REASONS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME, ALLOWING THE FULL PRESSURE TO ENTER SEPARATOR.

The separator was unable to handle the full pressure and subsequently failed, which in turn disabled the choke and kill manifold. At this time the well was still unloading water and gas. The rig crew stated that they were unable to reach any of the four valves going to the manifold from the BOP to shut the well in. The crew then left the location for a place of safety. The well continued to blow gas and condensate until approximately 5:10 A.M. the following morning, at which time it ignited itself.