

Killing Kuwait's oil fires

More than 500 oil wells are blazing day and night. Another 200 wells which were blown up but did not catch fire are flooding the country with oil and gas. This is how the oilmen can cap a burning well:

1. Water supply

Reservoir is prepared for water pumped from Persian Gulf. Water is needed to cool men and equipment around the fire

2. Heat shields

Monitor stands and heat shields are built. Water cannons throw blanket of water onto fire

3. Debris

Cranes drag debris away from the well

4. Explosives

Drum containing 250kg of dynamite is placed as near to the fire as possible

5. Detonation

Explosion kills the fire by using up all the oxygen in the air

6. Capping the well

New 10,000 kg control head is bolted onto remains of pipe casing. New flow lines connected to remove oil

