

# Conflicting claims over oil rig disaster

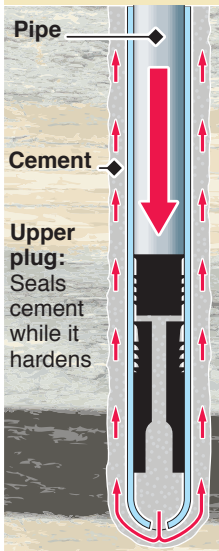
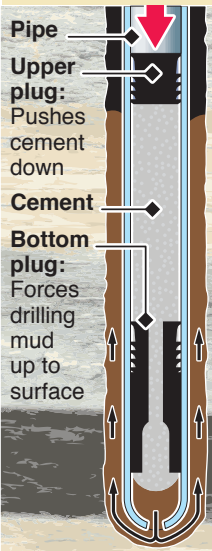
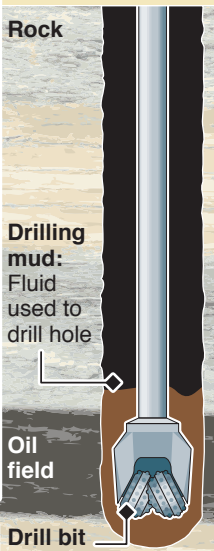
The three oil firms at the centre of the huge oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico are trading blame charges for the disaster. BP blames the spill on the failure of Transocean's "blowout preventer", but Transocean pins the explosion on the failure of Halliburton's cementing work to plug the underwater well

## CEMENTING AN OIL WELL

**1** Blowout preventer (BOP) used to stop oil and gas leaks during drilling

**2** After removing drill, pipe is inserted and cement is pumped down

**3** Cement forced through bottom plug, filling space between pipe and drilled hole



Transocean says **Deepwater Horizon rig** blew three days after drilling was completed and well had been sealed with cement

Sources: BP, Halliburton, U.S. Oil and Gas Corp

© GRAPHIC NEWS