

BP tries "top hat" dome to fix Gulf spill

After failing to contain the Gulf of Mexico oil spill with a giant dome, BP is now trying a smaller version. The "top hat" is designed to allow methanol to be pumped into the structure, which is hoped will prevent the formation of ice-like crystals that thwarted the previous attempt

Methanol pumped into dome

Oil funnelled to ship

JUNK SHOT:

BP also planning to block leak by shooting rubbish such as golf balls and shredded tyres into well's failed blow-out preventer at high pressure

Blow-out preventer

1.5km

Top hat:

Height: 1.5m

Diameter: 1.2m

Weight: 2 tonnes

Chamber to be placed over main leak in collapsed riser and escaping oil siphoned from top of dome to drill vessel at surface

Robot submarines shooting chemical dispersants directly at source of leaks

Well head

OIL FIELD