

# Key dates in North Sea gas leak

■ **Jan 2011:** Total stops production and plugs problematic **Elgin G4** well

■ **Feb 25, 2012:** Sharp spikes in pressure and temperature detected

■ **Mar 4:** Total decides to cap well permanently by injecting drilling mud

■ **Mar 25:** Sudden pressure increase followed by escape of mud and gas. All 238 personnel evacuated

■ **Mar 30:** Safety flare – just 100m from gas cloud – extinguishes itself, reducing risk of explosion

■ **Apr 5:** Team of crisis engineers to fly to platform to assess how best to cap well

*Elgin PUQ*

*Safety flare*

*Bridge*

*Wellhead platform*

200,000 cubic metres of methane, hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide, escape daily

Sheen of gas condensate

93m

Gas leaks into annulus between outer and inner steel casings

Gas pocket: 1.5km away from gas field

5,300m

**Well G4**

**Gas field**