While drilling a well in shallow water, to a depth of almost 20,000 feet deep, an influx occurred. After the operator shut in the well, a flange below the BOPs began leaking. When the Boots & Coots Well Control Engineer arrived, the fire height was approximately 70 meters high. On a subsequent visit, the flame height was measured at 100 meters high. This indicated the well was “cleaned up”, meaning obstructions in the flow path had been eradicated. Shortly thereafter, Boots & Coots was contracted to cap the well. A well control team was quickly mobilized and arrived at the location the following day.

Upon the team’s arrival, Boots & Coots faced multiple challenges such as language and interpretation complexities, high winds and heavy seas, improper or lack of equipment, improper positioning, and inadequate fireboat performance.

Nevertheless, even with forty percent of their working days shut down by inclement weather, Boots & Coots managed to:

- Cut debris from the platform and transfer it to a derrick barge
- Place a venturi tube over the well to move fire farther away, enabling specialists to get close to the well without high radiant heat exposure
- Perform a demonstration cut to the satisfaction of the operator of the abrasive jet cutter
- Construct a temporary working deck to place the jet cutter

The cutter was moved offshore and the 18-3/4” 10,000 psi WP head was cut off. The flange was removed and a capping stack was installed. Immediately after, the well was diverted and the team was released—all within 41 calendar working days.
A CASE STUDY: Boots & Coots overcomes multiple challenges in Azerbaijan well response

Water depth 90’. Well depth 19,256’ deep when the kick was encountered.

Well flame 320 ft. high, producing over 200 million cubic feet per day

Seawater and sand accelerated to 10,000 psi and 4BPM cuts through forged steel 8-1/2” thick

Well Control

Boots & Coots has amassed a highly specialized team of degreed engineers, experienced in all phases of drilling and production operations. Our engineers apply their experience to solve the most complex or unique problems our clients encounter, helping them design and implement a safe and effective operation.

Boots & Coots is frequently recognized as the most experienced well response team on the planet. We use that experience to deliver the highest levels of efficiency and performance in some of the world’s most challenging environments.

Make Boots & Coots your trusted adviser.

To every job and every operator, we bring pressure control and well control expertise and integrity that is unrivaled in the oil and gas industry. When we put our knowledge, people, and technology to work for you, you’re gaining the advantage of more than 300 years of combined experience. Our experts have seen—and resolved—just about every well control problem there is. Let us become your trusted advisor.