WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A rig control interface comprising:

an emergency disconnect sequence button configured to initiate an emergency disconnect sequence signal to be sent to multiplex pods resulting in an emergency disconnect sequence including a plurality of functions being performed by devices in one or both of a lower marine riser package and a blowout preventer stack; and

an emergency disconnect sequence timer display triggered by initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal, the emergency disconnect sequence timer display configured to indicate one or both of time elapsed after initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal and a status of the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack.

2. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the interface is a touch screen including the emergency disconnect sequence button and the emergency disconnect sequence timer display as touch screen displays.

3. The rig control interface of claim 2, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence button touch-screen display is located adjacent to the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen display.

4. The rig control interface of claim 2, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen display is a pop-up display.

5. The rig control interface of claim 4, wherein when the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen pop-up display is in an active state, visual access of the remaining portion of the touch screen is inhibited.

6. The rig control interface of claim 1 wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a numerical display of the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal.

7. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer includes a numerical display of time remaining for a specific type of emergency disconnect sequence to be completed.

8. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a plurality of progress bars corresponding to the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack as a consequence of the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence.

9. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a progress bar corresponding to the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal.

10. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a progress bar corresponding to time remaining for the completion of the emergency disconnect sequence.

11. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a progress bar comprising a completed portion corresponding to the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence and an uncompleted portion corresponding to time remaining for completion of the emergency disconnect sequence.

12. The rig control interface of claim 1, further comprising an emergency disconnect sequence completion indicator.

13. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence button is a physical button and wherein the interface includes an emergency disconnect sequence icon that is activated upon activation of the physical emergency disconnect sequence button.

14. A rig control system, the system comprising:

a processor;

a first plurality of sensors connected to a blowout preventer stack;

a second plurality of sensors connected to a lower marine riser package releasably connectable to the blowout preventer stack;

a multiplex pods connected to the lower marine riser package, the multiplex pod configured to receive an emergency disconnect sequence signal from the processor and to transport electric and/or hydraulic control signals to devices in one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack in response to the emergency disconnect sequence signal; and

a stack screen connected to the processor, the stack screen including:

an emergency disconnect sequence button configured to initiate the emergency disconnect sequence signal sent to the multiplex pods resulting in an emergency disconnect sequence including a plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack; and

an emergency disconnect sequence timer display triggered by initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal, the emergency disconnect sequence timer display configured to indicate one or both of time elapsed after initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal and a status of the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack.

15. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the stack screen is a touch screen including the emergency disconnect sequence button and the emergency disconnect sequence timer display as touch-screen displays.

16. The rig control system of claim 15, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence button touch-screen display is located adjacent to the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen display.

17. The rig control system of claim 15, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen display is a pop-up display.

18. The rig control system of claim17, wherein when the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen pop-up display is in an active state, visual access of the remaining portion of the touch screen is inhibited.

19. The rig control system of claim14, wherein the stack screen is a computer display including the emergency disconnect sequence button as selectable control and the emergency disconnect sequence timer as a display on the computer display.

20. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the stack screen is a physical control panel including the emergency disconnect sequence button as a physical button.

21. The rig control system of claim14, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a numerical display of the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal.

22. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer includes a plurality of progress bars corresponding to the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack as a consequence of the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence.

23. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a progress bar corresponding to the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal.

24. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the stack screen further includes an emergency disconnect sequence completion indicator.

25. A method for disconnecting a lower marine riser package from a blowout preventer stack, the method comprising:

receiving an emergency disconnect sequence initiation input, the emergency disconnect sequence initiation input to initiate an emergency disconnect sequence

signal sent to multiplex pods resulting in an emergency disconnect sequence including a plurality of functions being performed by devices in one or both of a lower marine riser package and a blowout preventer stack;

identifying the emergency disconnect sequence being fired;

setting an emergency disconnect sequence timer to indicate one or both of time elapsed after initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal and a status of the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack; and

outputting the one or both of the time elapsed after initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal and the status of the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack.

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A rig control interface comprising:

an emergency disconnect sequence button configured to initiate an emergency disconnect sequence signal to be sent to multiplex pods resulting in an emergency disconnect sequence including a plurality of functions being performed by devices in one or both of a lower marine riser package and a blowout preventer stack; and

an emergency disconnect sequence timer display triggered by initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal, the emergency disconnect sequence timer display configured to indicate one or both of time elapsed after initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal and a status of the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack.

2. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the interface is a touch screen including the emergency disconnect sequence button and the emergency disconnect sequence timer display as touch screen displays.

3. The rig control interface of claim 2, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence button touch-screen display is located adjacent to the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen display.

4. The rig control interface of claim 2, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen display is a pop-up display.

5. The rig control interface of claim 4, wherein when the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen pop-up display is in an active state, visual access of the remaining portion of the touch screen is inhibited.

6. The rig control interface of claim 1 wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a numerical display of the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal.

7. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a numerical display of time remaining for a specific type of emergency disconnect sequence to be completed.

8. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a plurality of progress bars corresponding to the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack as a consequence of the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence.

9. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a progress bar corresponding to the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal.

10. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a progress bar corresponding to time remaining for the completion of the emergency disconnect sequence.

11. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a progress bar comprising a completed portion corresponding to the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence and an uncompleted portion corresponding to time remaining for completion of the emergency disconnect sequence.

12. The rig control interface of claim 1, further comprising an emergency disconnect sequence completion indicator.

13. The rig control interface of claim 1, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence button is a physical button and wherein the interface includes an emergency disconnect sequence icon that is activated upon activation of the physical emergency disconnect sequence button.

14. A rig control system, the system comprising:

a processor;

a first plurality of sensors connected to a blowout preventer stack;

a second plurality of sensors connected to a lower marine riser package releasably connectable to the blowout preventer stack;

a multiplex pod connected to the lower marine riser package, the multiplex pod configured to receive an emergency disconnect sequence signal from the processor and to transport electric and/or hydraulic control signals to devices in one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack in response to the emergency disconnect sequence signal; and

a stack screen connected to the processor, the stack screen including:

an emergency disconnect sequence button configured to initiate the emergency disconnect sequence signal sent to the multiplex pod resulting in an emergency disconnect sequence including a plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack; and

an emergency disconnect sequence timer display triggered by initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal, the emergency disconnect sequence timer display configured to indicate one or both of time elapsed after initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal and a status of the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack.

15. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the stack screen is a touch screen including the emergency disconnect sequence button and the emergency disconnect sequence timer display as touch-screen displays.

16. The rig control system of claim 15, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence button touch-screen display is located adjacent to the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen display.

17. The rig control system of claim 15, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen display is a pop-up display.

18. The rig control system of claim 17, wherein when the emergency disconnect sequence timer touch-screen pop-up display is in an active state, visual access of the remaining portion of the touch screen is inhibited.

19. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the stack screen is a computer display including the emergency disconnect sequence button as selectable control and the emergency disconnect sequence timer as a display on the computer display.

20. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the stack screen is a physical control panel including the emergency disconnect sequence button as a physical button.

21. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a numerical display of the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal.

22. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a plurality of progress bars corresponding to the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack as a consequence of the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence.

23. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the emergency disconnect sequence timer display includes a progress bar corresponding to the time elapsed after the initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal.

24. The rig control system of claim 14, wherein the stack screen further includes an emergency disconnect sequence completion indicator.

25. A method for disconnecting a lower marine riser package from a blowout preventer stack, the method comprising:

receiving an emergency disconnect sequence initiation input, the emergency disconnect sequence initiation input to initiate an emergency disconnect sequence signal sent to multiplex pods resulting in an emergency disconnect sequence including a plurality of functions being performed by devices in one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack;

identifying the emergency disconnect sequence being fired;

setting an emergency disconnect sequence timer to indicate one or both of time elapsed after initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal and a status of the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack; and

outputting the one or both of the time elapsed after initiation of the emergency disconnect sequence signal and the status of the plurality of functions being performed by the devices in the one or both of the lower marine riser package and the blowout preventer stack.