



# U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

## OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

### Memorandum

To: Board Members

From: Steven Messer  
Acting General Counsel

Cc: Leadership Team  
Adam Henson

Subject: Board Action Report – Notation Item 2025-40 | Recommendation to the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) (2018-01-I-OK-R14) from the Pryor Trust Fatal Gas Well Blowout and Fire investigation (2018-01-I-OK)

Date: May 15, 2025

On May 13, 2025, the Board approved Notation Item 2025-40, thereby designating Recommendation 2018-01-I-OK-R14 with the status of Closed – Exceeds Recommended Action and authorizing the publication of the Recommendations Status Change Summary for this change on the CSB's website.

### Voting Summary – Notation Item 2025-40

**Disposition: APPROVED**

**Disposition date: May 13, 2025**

	Approve	Disapprove	Calendar	Not Participating	Date
S. Johnson	X				5/12/2025
S. Owens	X				5/12/2025
C. Sandoval	X				5/13/2025



## U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

# RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

<b>Report:</b>	Pryor Trust Fatal Gas Well Blowout and Fire
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2018-01-I-OK-R14
<b>Date Issued:</b>	June 12, 2019
<b>Recipient:</b>	International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC)
<b>New Status:</b>	Closed – Exceeds Recommended Action
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	May 13, 2025

### Recommendation Text:

*Participate in development of the recommended practice describe in recommendation 2018-01-OK-R4 to [American Petroleum Institute] API.*

### Board Status Change Decision:

#### A. Rationale for Recommendation

On January 22, 2018, a blowout and rig fire occurred at Pryor Trust 0718 gas well number 1H-9, located in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma. The fire killed five workers, who were inside the driller's cabin on the rig floor. They died from thermal burn injuries and smoke and soot ("tripping") out of the well.

The cause of the blowout and rig fire was the failure of both the primary barrier—hydrostatic pressure produced by drilling mud—and the secondary barrier—human detection of influx and activation of the blowout preventer—which were intended to be in place to prevent a blowout.

As a result of these findings, the CSB issued one recommendation to the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC). This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2018-01-I-OK-R14.

#### B. Response to the Recommendation

The IADC published *IADC Drilling Control Alarm Management Guidelines V2.0*. This publication was developed in participation with the American Petroleum Institute (API) in response to the recommendation. This publication contains information on alarm management for the drilling industry including information from ANSI/ISA 18.2. There is also guidance on implementing a state based alarm system for different operating modes..

#### C. Board Analysis and Decision

The guidance in this publication captures key lessons from the Pryor Trust Fatal Gas Well Blowout and Fire and will serve as a valuable resource for managing alarm performance in the oil and gas well drilling industry. IADC was charged with participating in the effort to develop

guidance for alarm management specifically for the drilling industry but instead led that effort and produced an excellent final product.

The Board appreciates the work of IADC's Advanced Rig Technology Committee, as well as the leadership and staff of IADC, in responding to this recommendation. Based on the information above, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2018-01-I-OK-R14 to: "Closed – Exceeds Recommended Action."