



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Gas Well Blowout and Fire at Pryor Trust Well 1H-9
Recommendation Number:	2018-01-I-OK-R3
Date Issued:	June 12, 2019
Recipient:	American Petroleum Institute (API)
New Status:	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	June 12, 2019

Recommendation Text:

For onshore drilling operations, develop and publish a recommended practice providing guidance on safely tripping drill pipe during (1) overbalanced drilling operations, (2) managed pressure drilling operations, and (3) underbalanced drilling operations. At a minimum, include information on:

- (a) Required equipment for tripping operations,*
- (b) Techniques and procedures for controlling or preventing formation fluid influx, and*
- (c) Methods to monitor the well and replace the drill pipe displacement volume with drilling fluid (e.g., mud).*

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 inhalation. The blowout occurred about three-and-a-half hours after removing drill pipe ("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.