



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-R11
Date Issued:	June 12, 2019
Recipient:	Patterson-UTI
New Status:	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	June 12, 2019

Recommendation Text:

Update the Patterson metrics program to track leading and lagging indicators to measure the effectiveness of the overall safety management system. Specifically focus on measuring the effectiveness of the following safety management system components:

- (a) The effectiveness of the flow check policy, including the frequency that flow checks are performed when required by Patterson policy;*
- (b) The frequency that flow checks are documented and approved as recommended in 2018-01-OK-R10;*
- (c) The effectiveness of the management of change program, for both equipment and procedural changes, including real-time procedure changes;*
- (d) The frequency that alarms are set at the required set points;*
- (e) The frequency that drilling rig alarm horns or the entire alarm system is turned off; and*
- (f) The frequency that trip sheets are filled out properly.*

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.