



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

<b>Report:</b>	Gas Well Blowout and Fire at Pryor Trust Well 1H-9
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2018-01-I-OK-R9
<b>Date Issued:</b>	June 12, 2019
<b>Recipient:</b>	Patterson-UTI
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	June 12, 2019

### Recommendation Text:

*Develop a policy that incorporates recommendations in API RP 59 Recommended Practice for Well Control Operations requiring the regular testing of drillers' influx detection and response skills through formalized drills, for example by "simulat[ing] a gain in pit drilling fluid volume by raising a float sufficiently to cause an alarm to be activated." In this policy, require that driller response time is monitored in the spirit of continual improvement.*

### 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.