



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-R12
Date Issued:	June 12, 2019
Recipient:	Red Mountain Operating
New Status:	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	June 12, 2019

Recommendation Text:

Develop a new policy that a well-specific Well Construction Interface Document be in place before drilling operations begin, as specified in API Bulletin 97 Well Construction Interface Document Guidelines. Ensure the policy requires that the Well Construction Interface Document specifies the technical requirements of the rig equipment and technical qualifications of personnel (e.g., conventional drilling, managed pressure drilling, underbalanced drilling) as well as specifies which barriers must be maintained and the expected response if a barrier is lost.

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.