



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-R19
Date Issued:	June 12, 2019
Recipient:	State of Oklahoma
New Status:	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	June 12, 2019

Recommendation Text:

Establish and implement safety regulations requiring entities who design oil and gas well drilling plans for wells in Oklahoma (e.g., operators) and entities who perform the drilling operation (e.g., drilling contractors) to develop and implement the following prior to conducting drilling operations:

- (a) Detailed written operating procedures with specified steps and equipment alignment for all operations;*
- (b) Written procedures for the management of changes (except replacements in kind) in procedures, the well plan, and equipment;*
- (c) A risk assessment of hazards associated with the drilling plan;*
- (d) A requirement to follow Recognized and Generally Accepted Good Engineering Practices (RAGAGEP);*
- (e) Development of a Well Construction Interface Document between the operator and the drilling contractor prior to the commencement of drilling activities which at a minimum includes a bridging document and well plan specifying barriers and how to manage them;*
- (f) The performance and documentation of flow checks using acceptable methods at defined points during the operation for a specified duration; and*
- (g) A requirement for employee participation, similar to the Employee Participation requirement in the OSHA PSM standard.*

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.