



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

Report:	Wendland 1H Well Fatal Explosion
Recommendation Number:	2020-04-I-TX-R2
Date Issued:	December 26, 2023
Recipient:	American Petroleum Institute (API)
New Status:	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	Not Applicable – Initial Status

Recommendation Text:

Publish the following information in an appropriate document such as API RP 59 Recommended Practice for Well Control Operations:

- 1. A focused discussion on practices applicable to workover operations, including completed wells in underpressured reservoirs. Include well control methods applicable to workover operations, such as using continuous fluid addition, viscous fluids, bridging solids, and mechanical plugs. Also include a discussion on the well control challenges and hazards specific to workover operations;*
- 2. Stabbing valves should not be considered as well control barriers for workover operations; and*
- 3. Every well should be considered to have potential to flow, and therefore, should have two well control barriers, one of which should be a preventative barrier.*

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On January 29, 2020, the Daniel H. Wendland 1-H well (“Wendland 1-H well”) experienced a loss of well control that resulted in a blowout during the process of installing a new tubing head as part of a workover operation. Within seconds, the uncontrolled release oil and gas found an ignition source resulting in a flash fire that fatally injured three workers and seriously injured another. The incident also resulted in property damage estimated to be greater than \$1 million. The well was plugged and abandoned following the incident.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including inadequate well planning, insufficient industry guidance for well control for completed wells in underpressured reservoirs, and a lack of regulatory requirements for oil and gas well drilling and servicing operations. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued one recommendation to the American Petroleum Institute (API). This status change summary addresses **CSB Recommendation No. 2020-04-I-TX-R2**.