Learning Advisory

Eagle Ford Pipe Light HIPO

bpx energy

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Summary:

On March 6, 2025, an interventions rig crew responded to gas at the surface and attempted to kill the well using a method that pressurized the system to 1,500psi against a closed choke and pipe rams. Pumping against the closed choke caused 7 joints of tubing to be hydraulically lifted out of the hole and fall to the ground. There were no injuries or loss of primary well control. This incident resulted in a HIPO.

Key Learnings:

Human Factors

- When the initial plan and execution method to respond to gas at the surface proved ineffective, there was no operational pause to account for human factors (e.g. communication clarity, situational awareness, and team coordination).
- The absence of a tailgate meeting hindered critical adjustments and planning, resulting in a misunderstanding among personnel regarding the method and objective of circulating the well safely.

Communication and Verification

- It is essential to ensure proper coordination between outgoing and incoming rig crews, with clear and documented communication regarding the well control method, such as whether to circulate or bullhead gas.
- Field leadership and situational awareness are critical in preventing operational errors. Proactively walking the lines before pumping ensures proper valve alignment, reducing the risk of misconfiguration and improving overall system reliability.

Best Practices:

Strengthen Procedural Clarity and Operational Verification

- Enhance work-specific procedures (WSPs) with clear guidance for pipe light well-kill operations.
- Implement structured verification protocols for valve positions and flow paths before initiating operations.
- Use visual aids and checklists to support consistent understanding of flowpaths and pumping operations.

Foster Proactive Communication and Safety Culture

- Utilize the “Own It” pillars and cards to promote robust communication practices during shift handovers and pre-job planning.
- Promote Life-Saving Rules such as “Line of Fire” and Process Safety Fundamentals such as “Walk the Line” to maintain awareness of hazardous zones.
- Encourage scenario-based training to build confidence in responding to gas-at-surface events and to support shared understanding of safety-critical decisions.

A bpx Learning Advisory document is issued as needed to the entire bpx organization to highlight learnings and retain key concepts from observations, trends, near misses, or investigation results.

Learning Advisor: Rania Pommer

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Figures:



Figure 1: Tubing Ejected out of Hole/Rig

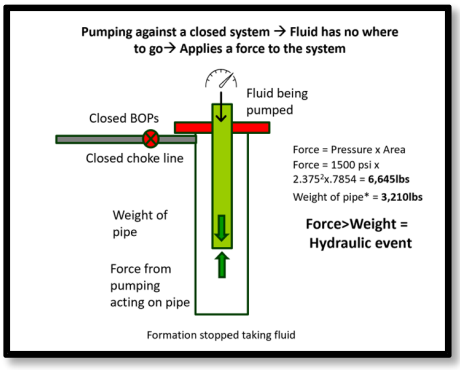
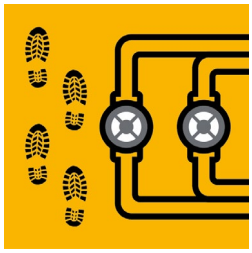


Figure 2: Diagram of Hydraulically Lifted Tubing Conditions

Applicable Life-Saving Rules, Process Safety Fundamentals, and Safety Leadership Principles:



Line of Fire



Walk the Line



Safety Leadership Principle

Resources:

- N/A

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