



DEPARTMENT of CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, and GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

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NOTICE TO OPERATORS

The Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) has observed a disturbing trend involving the lack of properly trained and supervised personnel operating some drilling and rework rigs in California. The Division is particularly concerned about the lack of training in well control operations, one of the more critical areas needed to protect public safety and the environment.

Well operators have the overall responsibility to ensure that rig crews on their wells are properly trained and supervised in well control operations. This includes training in blowout prevention, well control techniques, equipment requirements, and equipment installation and operation.

Rig crew training can be accomplished through formal institutions such as Westec in Kern County, or via "hands-on" or in-house training provided by the operator or a contractor at the rig itself. Furthermore, crew drills conducted by on-site supervisory drilling personnel provide good, practical instruction for new rig hands to learn their duties during well control operations. At a minimum, two people on each crew shift, generally the driller and the derrickman, should have certification from a sanctioned well control school.

Your diligence in ensuring that rig crews are properly trained in well control techniques may help avoid any serious public safety or environmental problems at your wells or facilities.

Hal Bopp
State Oil and Gas Supervisor