



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

801 K STREET • MS 20-20 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE 916 / 445-9686 • FAX 916 / 323-0424 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEBSITE [conservation.ca.gov](http://conservation.ca.gov)

January 2, 2007

## NOTICE TO OPERATORS

Section 3219 of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) requires that any person engaged in operating an oil or gas well where high pressure gas is known to exist, or drilling a well or where the reservoir pressure is unknown, shall equip the well with adequate blowout prevention equipment, and shall use every effort to prevent blowouts, explosions, and fires.

The Division has become aware that in some instances, operators are conducting well work without the use of blowout prevention equipment or other means to shut-in a well in the event of a kick. In these instances, the operator has cited that no Division permit was required for the well work and, therefore, blowout prevention equipment is not required.

Section 3219 specifies that operators must be able to maintain control of a well during any well operation, whether or not a permit is required. In addition, all well operations in urban areas require the use of blowout prevention equipment.

Should you have questions concerning the use of blowout prevention equipment, please contact your local Division District office. They will be able to provide information on abnormal zone pressures and be able to clarify whether your operation is located in an urban area.

---

Hal Bopp  
State Oil and Gas Supervisor