

LONE STAR MUD LOST CIRCULATION PROCEDURES

Loss of circulation is a possibility on this well. Although each well is different, there are some basic procedures and drilling practices that can aid in reducing the severity or, in some cases, prevent lost circulation. Below is a list, which may prove helpful.

1. Maintain viscosities as low as possible and still clean the hole. We recommend a viscosity of 28 to 50 on this well.
2. Maintain mud weights as low as possible without jeopardizing safety.
3. Use slow trip speeds to prevent swabbing and surging.
4. Break circulation in stages with reduced pump strokes while tripping in the hole.
5. Rotate pipe prior to and while tripping in the hole.
6. Use an optimum hydraulics program.

Severe seepage to total loss of circulation may occur even when the above procedures are followed. For severe seepage, we recommend circulating pills (50-100 bbls. depending on hole size) containing 10-30 ppb of various (fibrous and flake) lost circulation material. It would be helpful to reduce pump rates until full returns are established. Once full returns are regained, normal pump rates should be returned to in stages. The inclusion of lost circulation material in the entire system is recommended only if the above procedures do not adequately seal off the loss zone.

For total loss of circulation, we recommend pulling enough stands to place the bit above the loss zone. A viscous pill containing the appropriate type of loss circulation material should be spotted. The size of the pill should be determined by hole size and should contain at least 30 ppb lost circulation material. Several attempts should be made before considering other alternatives. After returns are regained, we recommend staging back to bottom using the procedure outlined above.

If returns are not fully re-established, consideration should be given to dry drilling while pumping periodic sweeps to ensure hole cleaning.

Due to the sensitive nature of the Morrow, we recommend utilizing acid soluble LCM, such as Magma Fiber in that interval. Initial pills should contain 10 ppb Magma Fiber. If returns cannot be reestablished utilize 10 ppb Magma Fiber and 10 ppb Cedar Fiber.