

Ignition Procedures

A. Responsibility

The decision to ignite the well is the responsibility of the DRILLING FOREMAN in concurrence with the STATE POLICE. In the event the drilling foreman is incapacitated, it becomes the responsibility of the RIG TOOLPUSHER. This decision should be made as a last resort and in a situation where it is clear that:

1. Human life and property are endangered.
2. There is no hope of controlling the blowout under the prevailing conditions.

If time permits, notify the main office, but do not delay if human life is in danger. Initiate the first phase of the evacuation plan.

B. Instructions for Igniting the Well

1. Two people are required for the actual igniting operation. Both men must wear self-contained breathing apparatus and attach a safety rope. One man must monitor the atmosphere for explosive gases with the an explosimeter, while the drilling foreman is responsible for igniting the well.
2. The primary method for ignition is a 25mm flare gun with a range of approximately 500 feet.
3. Ignite from upwind and do not approach any closer than is warranted.
4. Select the ignition site best suited for protection and which offers an easy escape route.
5. Before igniting, check for the presence of combustible gases.
6. After igniting, continue emergency actions and procedures as before.
7. All unassigned personnel will limit their actions to those directed by the drilling foreman.

NOTE: After the well is ignited, burning hydrogen sulfide will convert to sulfur dioxide, which is also highly toxic. Do not assume the area is safe after the well is ignited.