



To: IPS Operations Personnel

Date: August 10, 2007

Fire During Flow Back Operations

Incident: During a post-frac flow back operation which contained carbon dioxide, IPS personnel were flowing a well to open top tanks directly from the wellhead. Personnel arriving to the location for crew change had their pickup stalled due to a large volume of CO₂ enveloping the location. Before exiting the stalled vehicle, an employee attempted to light a cigarette causing an ignition of natural gas.

Four employees received burns; two employees were treated and released from the hospital the day of the incident. The other two employees received third-degree burns - one to over 80% of his body and the other employee was burned on his face, neck and hands.

Findings:



Gas from the well was not being disbursed into the atmosphere at a rate sufficient to eliminate the chance for ignition. Additionally, the test separator, sand trap and flare stack were not in use at the time of the incident.

Actions:

1. No Smoking On Location Except in Designated Areas
2. If unable to flare well bore gases, equipment should be configured to ensure proper disbursement of gas into the atmosphere.
3. If wellsite activities can not be conducted with the proper equipment and procedures to ensure a safe worksite; wellsite activities should be suspended and management contacted.
4. All personnel should wear Fire Resistant Clothing (FRC's) when on a wellsite.