



## Well Servicing Best Practices for Employers and Employees

### ***What is Well Servicing?***

Well Servicing is the work performed on an oil or gas well to improve or maintain the production from a formation already producing, the completion of a newly drilled well or the work involved to research new production zones. It usually involves repairs to the pump, rods, gas-lift valves, tubing, packers, and other well components that apply.

Well Servicing includes three general categories of activities.

### General Services

Wells often need maintenance or service on surface or down-hole equipment. Working on an existing well to restore or increase oil and gas production is an important part of today's petroleum industry. A well that is not producing, to its full potential, may require service or workover.

During general well servicing, a well servicing unit is utilized. These are typically:

- Portable Rigs - Truck-mounted, trailer-mounted, or on a specially designed carrier. They consist of a hoist and engine with a self-erecting mast/derrick. Many shallow wells utilize a "pole unit", which has a pole rather than a mast/derrick.
- Production Rigs - Mounted on wheels and self-propelled. They usually consist of a hoist and engine mounted on a wheeled chassis with a self-erecting mast.
- Workover Rigs - The same as a production rig, but with the addition of a substructure with rotary, pump, pits, and auxiliaries to permit handling and working a drill string.

Examples of maintenance activities associated with the well when using these devices include:

- Removing the horse head (pumping unit only)
- Removing the wellhead
- Pulling and running rod
- Pulling and running tubing

### Special Services

Special services are operations that use specialized equipment and workers who perform and support well drilling and servicing operations. Coordination between all personnel is critical for site safety. These special services may be performed with or without workover/service rigs.

Examples of special services operation activities include:

- Wireline operations
- Well logging
- Perforating
- Cementing
- Stimulation
- Swabbing
- Hot Oiling
- Snubbing
- Coil Tubing

### Workover

Workover activities include one or more of a variety of remedial operations on a producing well to try to increase production.

Examples of workover operation activities include:

- Sand cleanout
- Repairing liners and casing
- Well recompletions
  - Sidetracking
  - Plug-Back

### ***What are some of the hazards?***

Some of the most dangerous hazards an employee faces, when working during well servicing operations, include:

- Falls
- Struck by and caught in between
- Heavy equipment operations
- Electrical Shock
- Chemical Exposure

### ***What are some well servicing safety tips for employers and employees?***

Below are a few safety tips to utilize during operations of all well servicing activities:

- Minimize hazards by carefully selecting tools and equipment that you purchase.
- Ensure that equipment operators read and follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Inspect equipment routinely for problems that may cause incidents.
- Educate employees on well servicing hazards and train them on safe behaviors and emergency preparedness.
- Conduct daily Pre-Task/Pre-Job meetings and Job Safety Analysis to reinforce positive safe behaviors and correct negative behaviors or conditions with all personnel on site.
- Hold weekly "tool box" safety talks to continue employee safety education and training.
- Install and use fall protection systems.
- Create a danger zone and keep un-authorized people away from well servicing activities.
- Review and follow instructions on material safety data sheets (MSDS) and on labels that come with chemical products and communicate information on these hazards to workers.

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