



Blind Skillet in Mud Gas Separator Vent Line

What happened?

While drilling into a sand, a kick occurred. The well was shut in. The pipe stuck and packed off and mud could not be circulated. The pipe was freed, circulation was established and the Driller's Method used to displace the influx from the well.

What went wrong?

A high gas alarm from the shaker exhaust sensor occurred. Further attempts to kill the well were accompanied by additional gas alarms.

Why did it happen?

A blind skillet plate was found in the spool piece between the mud gas separator and the main gas vent line and removed. The well kill re-started without further incident.

What areas were identified for improvement?

Risk of recurrence of this incident can be reduced by verifying that temporary blanking flanges or skillets, installed during construction or commissioning, are removed prior to hand-over to operations; that safety critical third party equipment is maintained and is functioning as intended; and that personnel are aware of the danger present when gas alarms activate and take appropriate action.

What will WE do to prevent this from happening HERE?

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