

Over Pressured Fracture Operation Results in Spill Non-Injury Incident

SAFETY ALERT

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Enform: Your Partner in Safety

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An Industry Product

This document was developed by industry for industry. Working collaboratively, Enform works with the submitting organization representative in developing these documents to improve the industry's hazard awareness. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the use of shared information to help companies of all sizes improve performance.

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Details

Release Date: April 2012
Incidence Type: Non Injury Incident
Country and Region: Alberta, Canada

For more information on this event, please contact: safety@enform.ca

Description of Incident:

A company was conducting fracturing operations.

- The well was being fracture stimulated with sand, using fracture oil and nitrogen, to place the sand into the reservoir.
- The fracture caused a pressure build up at an offset well resulting in reservoir fluid (light sweet crude oil), fracture oil, nitrogen and sand escaping onto the lease with some of the fluid flowing into an adjacent field.

What Caused It:

The pressure related to hydraulic fracturing and proximity between the wells, resulted in formation breakthrough and a spill.

The Root Cause

- Well proximity (Interwell Communication)

Corrective/ Preventive Actions:

As a result of the incident, the company has changed their internal policy.

- It is believed that the fracturing model is an indication of length and will use this information as a guideline only.
- A safety factor will be applied to the model to reduce the potential for communication between wells.

By industry, for industry