

PTTC Focused Technology Workshop

“Oilfield Explosives Safety”

September 27, 2006; Morgantown, WV

Workshop Summary

Craig Beveridge, of Owen Oil Tools, taught the third in our 2006 series of safety workshops, this one at the Ramada Inn near Morgantown, WV. His day-long presentation was based on API Recommended Practice 67 (RP 67) published initially on March 1, 1994. During his extended introductory remarks, he offered three reasons why written safety procedures are not followed: workers did not know the correct procedures; they knew but chose not to follow them; and they were in too big a hurry. Beveridge stated that nearly all accidents are due to not following procedures, and warned “If you break the rules, you may die.” He also mentioned a common excuse that he has heard too many times in the oil fields following an accident: “I know what it says in the book, but this is the real world. We can’t do it that way.” He countered with, “That statement is both bad and wrong. You can do it that way and you should, always.”

The instructor used the material in API’s RP67, but changed the order somewhat. The workshop consisted of sections on personnel training; introduction to oilfield explosives; a general section; field safety procedures; surface equipment; and downhole equipment. Video clips were integrated with power point slides throughout the workshop.

The workshop notebook consisted of 10 sections, only one of which contained copies of slides used in the presentation. The other sections contained material on recommended practices for oilfield explosives safety, i.e., API RP 67; an explosives safety checklist; information on a drill collar severing tool; an article called “Time at Temperature,” discussing safety related issues concerning oilfield explosives, particularly HMX; background information for certification testing on PX-1 fireset; an electromagnetic test report on the PX-1 firing system; a “safety guide for the prevention of radio frequency radiation hazards in the use of commercial electric detonators;” a section on definitions; and an empty plastic envelope in which registrants could place their certificate for completing the course.

Evaluation Forms

Eight attendees, five of whom received a workshop flyer by direct mail, submitted an evaluation form. All 8 were from industry (7 operators; 1 service company person). Nearly all (75%) of these 8 attendees gave the workshop the highest mark (5 of 5) for program expectations, speakers & facilities and organization. The other two rated the workshop as 4 out of 5 for these same three criteria.

Only a few additional comments were received, but all were favorable. Attendees remarked that the presentation was excellent, that it was a great course and that they gained great knowledge.

Only 3 of the 8 had attended a previous PTTC workshop, and none indicated that they had used any knowledge gained from it. However, 4 of the 8 indicated a willingness to share technology with others, but none offered a topic.

Suggestions for upcoming workshop topics were interesting in that they were notably different from topics suggested following any of our previous workshops. But, this was a uniquely different group of registrants, those who deal with a very specific aspect of well completion, so perhaps this was to be expected. The topics suggested are transportation; service rig operations; cement bond logs; and fishing. I assume that the last topic was an intended reference to fishing for tools in a well, not taking a break from work.

Attendance List

Nineteen people pre-registered for the workshop but only 13 attended. These numbers do not include the instructor, Craig Beveridge, nor Mark Hoffman and Doug Patchen, PTTC staff members.