

ACIDIZING: Treatment of oil-bearing limestone or carbonate formations with a solution of hydrochloric acid and other chemicals to increase production. The acid is forced under pressure into the formation where it enlarges the flow channels by dissolving the limestone.

BLOWOUT: Uncontrolled flow of gas, oil, or other well fluids from a well during drilling due to formation pressure exceeding the pressure exerted by the column of drilling mud.

CAP ROCK: Impermeable rock overlying an oil or gas reservoir that tends to prevent migration of the reservoir fluids from the reservoir.

DERRICK: Load-bearing tower like framework over an oil/gas well which holds the hoisting and lowering equipment.

FOURBLE: Section of drill pipe, casing, or tubing consisting of four joints screwed together.

GAS CAP: Free gas, separate from, but overlying an oil zone that occurs within the same producing formation as oil. Since gas is lighter, it occupies the upper part of the reservoir

HORIZON: Distinct layer or group of layers of rock.

INFILL DRILLING: Drilling of wells according to a planned pattern and spacing to achieve full production from a new field.

JACK-KNIFE DERRICK: A cantilever mast that can be laid down in one piece for moving, as opposed to a standard derrick which has to be dismantled and re-erected piece by piece.

KILLING A WELL: The act of bringing a well under control which has blown out or is threatening to blow out; also applies to the procedure of circulating water and mud into a completed well before starting well service operations.

LIQUIDS: Hydrocarbons in solution in natural gas which are liquefiable at surface temperature and pressure or by treatment and processing.

MUD: Usually colloidal suspensions of clays in water with chemical additives that are circulated through the well bore during rotary drilling and work over operations. Can use oil as the main medium.

OILFIELD: Loosely defined term referring to an area where oil is found. May also include the oil reservoir, the surface and wells, and production equipment.

PERFORATE: To pierce holes through well casing within an oil or gas-bearing formation by means of a perforating gun lowered down the hole and fired electrically from the surface. The perforations permit production from a formation which has been cased off.

RESERVOIR: Porous, permeable sedimentary rock structure or trap containing oil and/or gas. A reservoir can contain more than one pool.

TOTAL DEPTH (TD): Maximum depth reached in a well.

VUG: A cavity in a rock.

WELL LOGGING: Recording information about subsurface geologic formations; methods include records kept by the driller, mud and cutting analysis, core analysis, drill stem tests, electric and radioactivity procedures.