

Glossary of Terms

Annulus: the space around a pipe in a well bore, sometimes termed the annular space.

Barrel: a measure of volume for petroleum products in the United States. One barrel is the equivalent of 42 U.S. gallons

Blowout Preventer (BOP): one or more valves installed at the wellhead to prevent the escape of pressure either in the annular space between the casing and the drill pipe or in open hole during drilling or completion operations.

Bottomhole: the lowest or deepest part of a well.

Brine: water that has a quantity of salt, especially sodium chloride, dissolved in it; salt water.

Bulk tank: on a drilling rig, a large metal bin that usually holds a large amount of a certain mud additive that is used in large quantities in the makeup of the drilling fluid.

Casing: 1. steel pipe placed in an oil or gas well to prevent the wall of the hole from caving in, to prevent movement of fluids from one formation to another and to aid in well control.

Casing string: the entire length of all the joints of casing run in a well.

Cellar: a pit in the ground to provide additional height between the rig floor and the well head.

Cement: a powder consisting of alumina, silica, lime, and other substances that hardens when mixed with water. Extensively used in the oil industry to bond casing to the walls of the wellbore.

Company man: an employee of an operating company who supervises the operations at a drilling site or well site. Also called company hand, operator's representative.

Derrick: a large load-bearing structure, usually of bolted construction. In drilling, the standard derrick has four legs standing at the corners of the substructure and reaching to the crown block. The substructure is an assembly of heavy beams used to elevate the derrick and provide space to install blowout preventers, casingheads, and so forth.

Doghouse: a small enclosure on the rig floor used as an office and/or as a storehouse for small objects. Also, any small building used as an office or for storage.

Downhole: pertaining to the wellbore.

Frac fluid: a fluid used in the fracturing process. Under extremely high hydraulic pressure, frac fluids (such as distillate, diesel fuel, crude oil, dilute hydrochloric acid, water, or kerosene) are pumped downward through production tubing or drill pipe. The pressure causes cracks to open in the formation, and the fluid penetrates the formation through the cracks. ie: Sand, aluminum pellets or similar materials (propping agents) are carried in suspension by the fluid into the cracks.

Geronimo line: an escape line that provides a rapid escape path for the derrickman should well conditions or massive mechanical failure warrant.

Horizontal drilling: deviation of the borehole from vertical so that the borehole penetrates a productive formation in a manner parallel to the formation.

Hydraulic fracturing (fracing): an operation in which a specially blended liquid is pumped down a well and into a formation under pressure high enough to cause the formation to crack open.

Kill: in drilling, to control a kick by taking suitable preventive measures (for example, to shut in the well with the blowout preventers, circulate the kick out, and increase the weight of the drilling mud). 2. in production, to stop a well from producing oil and gas so that reconditioning of the well can proceed.

Monkeyboard: the derrickhand's working platform which may be as high as 90 feet or higher in the derrick or mast.

Mousehole: shallow bores under the rig floor, usually lined with pipe, in which joints of drill pipe are temporarily suspended for later connection to the drill string

Mud: the liquid circulated through the wellbore during rotary drilling and workover operations.

Mud pit: an open pit dug in the ground to hold drilling fluid or waste materials discarded after the treatment of drilling mud.

Mud tank: one of a series of open tanks usually made of steel plate, through which the drilling mud is cycled to remove sand and fine sediments.

Perforation: a hole made in the casing, cement, and formation through which formation fluids enters a wellbore. Usually several perforations are made at a time.

Perforating gun: a device fitted with shaped charges or bullets that is lowered to the desired depth in a well and fired to create penetrating holes in casing, cement, and formation.

Pusher: *see Toolpusher*

Rathole: 1. a hole in the rig floor, some 30 to 40 feet (9 to 12 meters) deep, which is lined with casing that projects above the floor, into which the kelly and the swivel are placed when hoisting operations are in progress. 2. a hole of a diameter smaller than the main hole and drilled in the bottom of the main hole. v: to reduce the size of the wellbore and drill ahead.

Rig Manager: *see Toolpusher*

Roughneck: a worker on a drilling or workover rig, subordinate to the driller, whose primary work station is on the rig floor. Sometimes called floorhand, floorman, rig crew member.

Stimulation: a well stimulation method.

Tongs: the large wrenches used for turning when making up or breaking out drill pipe, casing, tubing, or other pipe; variously called casing tongs, rotary tongs, according to the specific use. Power tongs or power wrenches are pneumatically or hydraulically operated tools that serve to spin the pipe up and, in some instances, to apply the final makeup torque.

Toolpusher: an employee of a drilling contractor who is in charge of the entire drilling crew and the drilling rig. Also called a rig superintendent, drilling foreman, or rig supervisor.

V-door: an opening at floor level in a side of a derrick or mast. The V-door is opposite the draw works and is used as an entry to bring in drill pipe, casing, and other tools from the pipe rack.

Wellbore: a borehole; the hole drilled by the bit. A wellbore may have casing in it or it may be open (uncased); or part of it may be cased, and part of it may be open. Also called a borehole or hole.